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THE GUARDIAN

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**A clash
of
cultures**

How men fall for the Iron Lady's charms

By James Naughtie,
Political Correspondent

IT was a bad day for the Prime Minister yesterday. Sir John Nott spoke of her use of "feminine charms" in the Cabinet. Mr. Nicholas Fairbairn told of her encounter with a drunken, lecherous guest at a Kirk reception in Edinburgh, and she was pressed by Mr. Ken Livingstone.

As days go, even in Downing Street, it was bizarre. But of all its surprises Mr. Fairbairn's tale of lust at the Palace of Holyroodhouse was the most startling.

It was delivered to MPs contemplating in a second session the Sexual Offences Bill in the Commons, and not ready for the revelation that an unnamed prominent figure in Scottish public life had propositioned Mrs. Thatcher in a drunken fit of ardour.

Fortunately for the honour of the Conservative Party, he was rejected in words faithfully recorded by Mr. Fairbairn. On being told that the propositioner had always fancied her, the Iron Lady responded: "Quite right. You have very good taste. But I just don't think you would make it at the moment."

The wine had proved too much, a revelation which had a huge impact on the bill, becoming the subject of the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland at its annual blaze at Holyrood 40 years ago.

It can safely be stated that this was the first time in which the Commons had been given details of an attempted seduction of a Prime Minister of either sex, clumsy though it was, by a person who occupied grand office.

Mr. Fairbairn, who lives in a medieval castle, designs his own clothes, and wears dabbles in politics, was seeking to use Mrs. Thatcher in his argument against Section 3 of the bill which makes it an offence for a man to lift a woman for sexual purposes in a manner likely to cause her fear.

The admiral, he indicated, could have been arranged under the bill for his over-enthusiastic suggestions to the Prime Minister, the implication being that this would have been unfair.

There was collateral evidence of her lure yesterday, provided by Sir John Nott, her former Defence Secretary, who told A Week in Politics on Channel 4: "All the time of course, she uses her feminine charms."

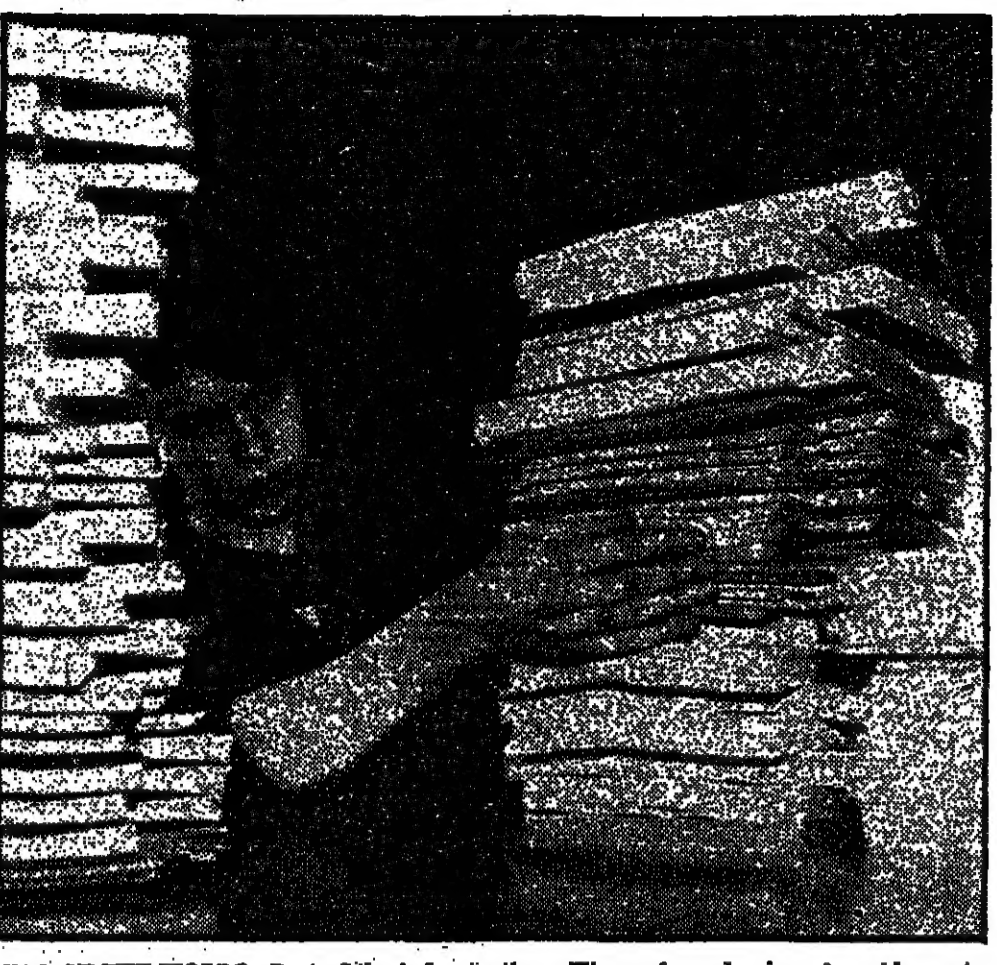
He said ruefully in the course of a profile of Mrs. Thatcher that her way of conducting business would not have been tolerated at his home, God forbid, a man.

"Mrs. Thatcher tends to arrive at her view by an intuitive process which men find difficult to understand," he said. Mr. James Prior, on the same programme, admitted that his mystification expressed itself in a series of shouting matches.

"My problem was that I generally did shout and say: 'No, I think you're absolutely wrong.' Of course, that's when the shouting match would start."

None of this, of course, shed light on the incident in Edinburgh, except perhaps to demonstrate that there are men who, given enough

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WAR OF THE WORDS: Part of the index to the millions of words given in evidence to the Sizewell B inquiry. The files are already several feet high. Picture by Frank Martin; Pit stoppage cannot justify PWRs, page 2

Botha promises blacks more say

From Patrick Laurence,
South African Correspondent

President P. W. Botha yesterday promised his country's black majority more political influence, but gave no indication that apartheid policies would be fundamentally changed.

Mr. Botha announced his willingness to consider changing the laws underpinning South Africa's policy of separate development when he opened the country's first multi-racial Parliament, which gives Indians and Coloureds, but not blacks, a junior role in the government.

Mr. Botha said that the Government would negotiate with blacks in townships near white cities, where blacks can now only rent or lease their homes. Such "urban blacks" should have some unspecified kind of political participation, and "negative and discriminatory aspects" of the pass laws limiting numbers of urban blacks should be eliminated.

He announced that the Government would set up an informal forum where black leaders could discuss changes, including political accommodation for blacks living outside their designated "homelands."

But as the forum will be unofficial, its recommendations will not be binding and its role will only be advisory.

Since the creation of the new three-chamber Parliament last year, Coloured and Indian MPs have made it clear that

they expect President Botha to start dismantling apartheid, and to tackle the question of political rights for blacks.

While Mr. Botha did not commit himself irrevocably to the abolition or fundamental reshaping of apartheid, he did say that the government was reconsidering the contentious issue of citizenship.

Under present laws, blacks deemed to be citizens of the four "independent homelands" are deprived of South African nationality and citizenship. All other blacks have South African nationality — but are regarded as citizens of one of the country's six non-independent "homelands." Apart from limited municipal voting rights in black townships, they can only vote for the legislative assemblies in these "homelands."

Referring to a special Cabinet committee which has been considering the political position of blacks living outside their designated homelands, Mr. Botha said: "Decisions reached... indicate that clarity must be reached soon on the question of citizenship."

Mr. Botha did not elaborate, but his announcement follows speculation that some form of dual citizenship — is under consideration, under which blacks may share a common South African citizenship with whites at one level, while retaining or developing their "own identity" at another.

Analysts say that the speech could herald a significant shift.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Pay offer rejected

COUNCIL manual workers could join teachers in industrial action after rejecting a £3.70 offer. Back page

Israel leaves

ISRAEL is to go ahead next month with the first phase of its withdrawal from Lebanon, where fears of its future threaten the country's currency. Page 5

Trike 'delay'

SIR CLIVE Sinclair has deferred a decision on whether to launch a second production line for his electric three-wheeler. Back page

Prestwick fear

THE rejection of a new cur-priate transatlantic airline has raised doubts about the future of Prestwick. Page 18

UDR gaoling

A MEMBER of the Ulster Defence Regiment was gaoling for life for the murder of a Catholic. Page 3

Cold criticism

SOCIAL workers were criticised by police at inquests in Bristol after the deaths from hypothermia of two elderly women. Page 2

Chemical dangers

UNION Carbide received an internal report saying that there were dangerous problems at its West Virginia plant three months before the disaster at its Bhopal chemical plant. The Virginia problem had been rectified. Page 4

The weather

SUNNY intervals and rain or snow showers. Details, back page.

The Guardian

AGAIN yesterday some readers failed to receive their Guardian. This further loss of copies was brought about by the continuing disagreement involving NGA members in our London composing room. We apologise to everyone affected.

Deputies warn against pits closure demand

NCB agrees talks to set peace agenda

By John Ardill
and Malcolm Pithers

Leaders of the coal industry and the miners' union are to meet on Tuesday to draw up an agenda for talks on ending the pit strike.

The National Coal Board's chief spokesman, Mr. Michael Eaton, said yesterday that the board had responded "positively" to a letter from the National Union of Mineworkers and had agreed to the talks without preconditions.

But a new problem emerged for the NCB yesterday with a warning from the pit deputies' union, Nacods, that it would not accept the closure of all uneconomic pits.

Tuesday's talks were announced simultaneously by the two sides and Mr. Eaton said that the NCB was "real negotiations" as early as Wednesday.

The agreement came after more than 24 hours of uncertainty, with the NCB's president, Mr. Arthur Scargill, writing to the NCB to confirm that the union would not be insisting on preconditions to talks and NCB and Government leaders, including the Prime Minister, taking an uncompromising line on closing uneconomic pits.

The board's team at Tuesday's talks will be led not by the industrial relations director Mr. Ned Smith, who met the NUM general secretary, Mr. Peter Heathfield, on Monday, but by the board member for personnel, Mr. Merrick Spanton.

"I am not interested in victory or defeat or whether anyone is climbing down," said Mr. Eaton. "What I am interested in is the coal industry."

"If the negotiating teams can face the reality of the situation then this dispute can be over quite soon. I think both sides are determined that an agreement will be reached which will run up to the end of the miners' dispute."

The Nacods warning followed swiftly on Mrs. Thatcher's televised demand that the NUM must accept that uneconomic pits would close.

Although Nacods would not specify what action it would take over closures, its threat must be regarded as serious. It reached agreement with the board over closure procedures in October, but can claim to have a strike mandate over reductions in the industry's capacity. Its members, without whom pits cannot legally operate, are balloting on the board's 5.2 per cent pay offer.

The general secretary, Mr. Peter McNesby, said: "If Margaret Thatcher wants to start talking about closing all the pits, she must accept that we cannot accept. We have never, ever agreed that with the coal board."

He said Mrs. Thatcher had "countermanded" an arrangement between Mr. Smith and the NUM. "She is out to destroy the NUM," he added. "It has become a political strike."

Strong reaction to Mrs. Thatcher's statement, he said, was coming from members in the working coalfields, where attitudes were noticeably changing. Stressing that the union had broken off negotiations with the NCB, he added: "We have given the board an ultimatum to get these talks off the ground and settle the dispute."

Mrs. Thatcher's statements also brought an accusation from the South Wales miners' leader, Mr. Emyr Williams, that she was trying to sabotage pits talks and a warning from the NUM vice-president, Mr. Mick McGahey, that the union would offer no written guarantee that it would discuss closures.

Mr. McGahey told a rally in Glasgow that the NUM was willing to negotiate without conditions but could accept no conditions in advance from the NCB. He added: "The Government is demanding blood but they are not having the blood of the miners."

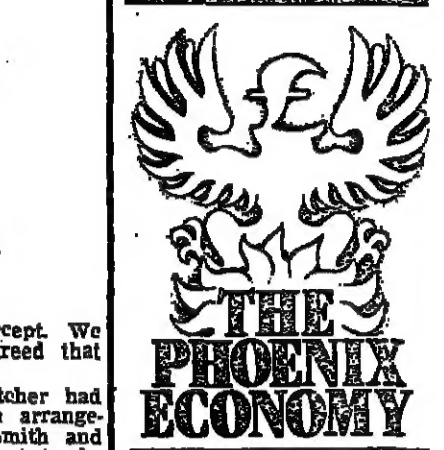
Mr. John Henry, deputy leader of the Scottish TUC, said: "We wanted to get across to the Government the message that there is every possibility for a successful settlement of the strike this time."

Leaders of the NUM's white collar section, Coss, decided yesterday to defer discussion on a call from Nottingham area members for the section split from the union nationally. The section secretary, Mr. Trevor Bell, said it would not be discussed before the section conference in May.

The coal board said that another 186 strikers went back to work yesterday, and that over the week 30 NUM clerical grade members had abandoned the strike.

uneconomic pits, that cuts right across any agreements we have made. If she demands from the NCB that they insist the NUM agree to closure of uneconomic pits, that is some-

Next week



**THE
PHOENIX
ECONOMY**

Britain's barefoot economists are convinced that mass unemployment is forcing the industrial self-reliance. In a major series Walter Schwarz looks at the grassroots of greening, starting on Monday

BELGRANO ALERT

The War Cabinet considered changing the Rules of Engagement to permit preemptive bombing strikes against Argentina's mainland airfields, but recoiled in the face of dubious legality. Agenda unveils further revelations surrounding the sinking of the Belgrano

Tuesday

LABOUR PAINS

If Helen Liddell becomes General Secretary her appointment would set a welcome trend in the Labour Party.

Wednesday

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Mary Midgley on beasts and beastliness in Body and Soul

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

Austria	26 sch	Greece	100 dr
Belgium	8.50 fr	Italy	1,500 lire
Denmark	8.50 kr	Spain	166 pes
France	7.00 fr	Switzerland	170 frs
Germany	3.50 dm		5 fr

Lord Lane favoured appeals on leniency

By Malcolm Dean

The first attempt to give the prosecution in the United Kingdom a right of appeal against sentence was initiated by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, who wanted a much more radical scheme than the one lost by the Government in the Lords on Thursday.

Until the debate on the Prosecution Bill in the Lords had been commonly assumed that Mr. Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, was responsible for the scheme, which he announced to the annual Conservative Party Conference in 1982.

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, scotched this myth when he admitted in the Lords — perhaps indiscreetly, perhaps unconstitutionally — that he himself had played no part in its introduction and pinned its origin on the Lord Chief Justice.

This caused confusion for the Lords, several of whom had checked with the Lord Chief Justice and been assured that he was against the Government's proposal. It now appears the reason for his opposition was that he would have preferred a more radical scheme.

The idea of allowing the prosecution the right of appeal was launched by the Lord Chief Justice at a private judges' dinner in the Mansion House in the summer of 1983. Lord Hailsham, who was present, spoke against the idea later in the evening.

The news leaked out through the columns of the Times, but the idea was attributed to Lord Hailsham. Lord Lane in a 10-line letter to the Times, corrected the attribution on July 22 1983. "In fact, it was I who made the suggestion," not Lord Hailsham.

The Government's proposal was more modest than Lord Lane's in two respects. First it said that a reference to the Court of Appeal should only be made by the Attorney-General. The Government expected there would be only two or three a year.

The second difference was that under the Government's scheme the sentences would remain unaltered for the offenders in the particular cases reviewed. The Court of Appeal gestured that the Lord Chief would have been restricted to

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What are his chances of a happy retirement?

Almost half the people who die before they reach 75 do so as a result of heart disease. Yet the factors that influence this may start in the cradle. Or even earlier.

That's why the British Heart Foundation is funding research work into this and all other aspects of heart disease.

But being a charity we rely totally on your support. Send off the coupon today and find out how you can help beat Britain's biggest killer.

(Figures taken from official Government statistics for 1982: on deaths under 75 in Britain)

We can't beat heart disease without you.

Please send me more information on the work of the BHF and details of how I can help. Send this coupon to the British Heart Foundation, 102 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4JL.

Name: _____
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British Heart Foundation
The heart research charity.

Pope calls synod on council's revolution

From George Armstrong,
in Rome

The Pope last night unexpectedly announced that he was calling an extraordinary synod of the world's Roman Catholic bishops to review the work of the Second Vatican Council, which ended 20 years ago.

The assembly would take place from November 25 to December 5.

The second council resulted in reforms which pushed the Roman Catholic Church into modern times. It approved major changes in liturgy, such as masses in the local language, and greatly advanced dialogue with non-Catholics and non-Christians.

The Pope was speaking at the end of Christmas Unity prayer week — itself a by-product of the Council — from the same altar, and on the same day after, 26 years ago, the late Pope John XXIII announced that he was convoking the Council which revolutionised much in the Roman Catholic Church.

The announcement was a surprise. It came only a few months after Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican's Doctrinal Office, criticised the Council for having encouraged "self-criticism which now has become self-destructive."

The cardinal's words are considered to have almost the same weight as the Pope's, and he went so far as to call for a restoration of pre-Council values which would not only be welcomed, but "is already under way."

One change brought about by the Council which immediately affected all practising Catholics, and irritated many, was putting the celebration of mass into the local vernacular, with the Latin mass permitted only on special occasions. Last year the Pope reinterpreted the Council's decision by formally making it easier for the Latin mass to be said at communion.

This was done even though the world's bishops, in answer to a Vatican poll, recently voted overwhelmingly in favour of keeping the mass in the local language.

The special synod, lasting only 12 days, will be too brief for more than the reading of prepared statements.

Court rejects Owen case over 'unfair' coverage of SDP

By Malcolm Dean

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, yesterday failed to get a High Court order which would have required the Broadcasting Complaints Commission to review his complaint that ITN and BBC television news programmes treat the SDP/Liberal Alliance unfairly.

The court ruled that the commission was wrong in believing that it had no jurisdiction to review Dr Owen's complaint. The judges upheld, however, the commission's decision that even if it had jurisdiction, it would use its discretion and refuse to consider the complaint.

Lord Justice May, presiding, said the essence of Dr Owen's complaint was political. His objective was to achieve a change in editorial policy by the broadcasting authorities. This was not the type of relief the commission was empowered to grant.

It would have required the commission to express a view about a fundamental political issue—proportional representation—about which there were quite clearly different and strongly held views by the main political parties.

Dr Owen had complained that although the Alliance received only 2 per cent fewer votes than Labour in the last general election, it won 10 per cent of the two main news programmes had shown that Conservative spokesmen received 70 per cent of the political coverage, Labour 25 per cent, and the Alliance an unfair and unjust 5 per cent.

Dr Owen, whose application was supported by the Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, is unlikely to appeal against the decision but instead use the judgment in an action against the BBC and ITV.

Dr Owen said later that he was pleased with the case because, as the court had ruled out the commission as a paper tiger, there was an open invitation to the BBC and ITV to have the issue of balance tested in the courts.

One problem which deterred the SDP from going straight to the broadcasting authorities was a ruling in the Northern Ireland courts that the BBC was under no legal duty to be fair. Lord Justice May indicated in his judgment yesterday that this would be reversed.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has a statutory obligation to maintain balance but the BBC is only subject to a resolution on impartiality passed by its governing body and appended to its licence, issued by the Home Secretary.

Lord Justice May said: "I have found this a difficult case to decide and my mind has changed more than once in the course of the argument."

He thought that Parliament never intended that the commission should deal with a policy complaint like Dr Owen's but he felt impelled by the Act's wording to rule that the commission had the power to adjudicate.

He rejected Dr Owen's application, however, because the discretion which Parliament had extended to the commission was as wide as it could be.

Mr Justice Taylor concurred, noting that commission hearings on Dr Owen's complaint would have had to be held in private and without representations from the Conservative and Labour parties.

There were several rational and defensible approaches by which political balance could be judged but no clear guidance about which the commission should choose. It could be votes cast, seats won, by-election results, or public opinion polls.

There was no order for costs.

Dr Owen: Commission a paper tiger

Tory critics warned off by Howe

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday warned dissenting Conservatives that they were putting at risk phase two of Mrs Thatcher's assault on British political attitudes by demanding policy changes for short-term gain.

The Foreign Secretary, in a lengthy and robust defence of Government economic and social policy to Cambridge University Conservatives, said that the Tories had marked out new common ground by applying policies with conviction, and they should not now be diverted.

"National unity is important, expanding the common ground is important, but neither can be pursued at the cost of failing to stake out the right common ground. Had we taken that approach, we would never have succeeded in challenging the status quo in 1979."

Sir Geoffrey said that there were still "vested interests" which were refusing to face reality. "That is the major cause of polarisation in our politics today."

In defending the Government's approach, which had brought many rewards and would now result in further "liberation" in the economy, Sir Geoffrey made thinly veiled criticism of Tory opponents of current policies, with a sharp clearly directed at Mr Edward Heath.

Debate on government objectives was too often stifled by the "presentation of differences in terms of simplistic slogans and ready-made political categories. We need less emphasis on personalities and personal grudges and more honest analysis of the alternatives for achieving our national objectives."

On economic policy, the defeat of inflation was still the primary objective. Although he lamented the level of unemployment, he made clear his view—shared by the Prime Minister and Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor—that a quick change of emphasis to new public investment programmes was not the answer.

"When we are convinced we have got it right we need to go on expounding the case in a way which broadens our support by responding to sincerely felt anxieties."

The Government had to consider criticism, but he saw little justification for most of the backbench dissent. It was not true that the Government was rigidly ideological.

The record in economic policy, industry, and trade union reform showed practical judgment as well as ideological determination. "A disposition to give overwhelming priority to consensus can too easily end in power by following every political fashion."

Mrs Thatcher had created new common ground by challenging established assumptions in industry, politics and society at large, and was now poised to move ahead to new reforms based on deregulation in the economy and radical tax reform for individuals. But it could still all be lost.

"Even today, the risk remains that plausible deceit by the left could result in the return of a government which would undo all the gains so painfully won and bring disaster to our nation. A new common ground is not yet firmly established as to ensure that future governments will build upon it."

Strike stronghold stays resolute

THE mood of the 400 South Wales miners' delegates meeting in Pontypridd yesterday matched that of their holiday resort venue, surviving the winter but apparently looking forward to better days.

The lodge committee representatives from each of the 28 pits remained determined to abide by the unwritten rule that has kept them united throughout the dispute. "We all came out together and we'll all go back together," said one delegate. "It's as simple as that."

"If we went back the strike would collapse," said one lodge committee representative. "We are giving everything to the strike. We will stick this out as long as it takes."

He denied that the men were depressed or that they believed they were beaten. The talk was not of defeat but of securing an honourable settlement.

The issue of pit closures continues to stick in the throats of the South Wales men, who claim to have experienced more closures than any other region. A delegate said: "There's no point in going back to work if the board is going to press ahead with its closure programme. I wouldn't like it if it was my pit. That's why we came out in the first place."

While it has not proved so simple in other areas, the South Wales leaders believe they have a duty to maintain what is undoubtedly the union's strongest bastion. Even in Yorkshire, thousands of men have returned to work but in the South Wales valleys only 342 miners reported for duty yesterday according to the National Coal Board, less than 2 per cent of the 19,500-strong workforce.

No coal has been produced

in the region since the strike began and the union disputes the board's return-to-work figures, claiming that only 281 men reported for duty yesterday.

The South Wales men had put great faith in peace proposals put forward by church leaders but rejected by Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary. Now they pin their hopes on a break-through in next week's national talks. The South Wales miners' president, Mr Emyr Williams, said that the executive would decide if the men would go back to work if the negotiations failed.

They were seething about Mrs Thatcher's comments on television and almost universally said that it would be foolish for the Government to attempt to humiliate them.

One man said: "Mrs Thatcher will not be able to claim any victory here. We feel let down by our own men. If we could have all stood together we would have had victory now."

Another said: "All they want is Arthur's head on a pole. Let's hope next Tuesday that the moderates on the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers find out exactly what they want to do to us. We're not going to let them."

There is a kind of somber acceptance that more men are going to return to work, albeit slowly, or that there has to be some movement in the union in the talks. Few ever see the men's resolve as still there.

One who had stood on a picket line all day yesterday said: "She might want Arthur's head but I'll tell you this, Arthur Scargill has been meeting and sell us short. They might have to shift but we will not be sold out."

The men said they felt that the real issue of the dispute, the closure of pits, had been obscured. That would not be possible next week.

"People shouldn't think this strike is over yet. We have not stood back here for 12 months to lose everything and that alone will keep men going."

They accept, however, that families cannot keep going indefinitely. A few weeks ago a pit with one man working would have been a festive to men on the picket line but now they accept 50, 40, or 50 men at work with a resigned reluctance.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman, spoke to the working miners while he was in Yorkshire yesterday. He told Mr Gerry Duffin, aged 27, and Mr Carl Ford, aged 26, underground workers at Bentley pit near Doncaster, that people who have been dismissed would not be reinstated after the strike.

This could be another stumbling block in negotiations. He also said that the board had no intention of closing pits in the Doncaster area.

Paul Hoyland and Malcolm Pithers find the mood of pitmen in Wales and Yorkshire still defiant

While it has not proved so simple in other areas, the South Wales leaders believe they have a duty to maintain what is undoubtedly the union's strongest bastion. Even in Yorkshire, thousands of men have returned to work but in the South Wales valleys only 342 miners reported for duty yesterday according to the National Coal Board, less than 2 per cent of the 19,500-strong workforce.

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They accept, however, that families cannot keep going indefinitely. A few weeks ago a pit with one man working would have been a festive to men on the picket line but now they accept 50, 40, or 50 men at work with a resigned reluctance.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman, spoke to the working miners while he was in Yorkshire yesterday. He told Mr Gerry Duffin, aged 27, and Mr Carl Ford, aged 26, underground workers at Bentley pit near Doncaster, that people who have been dismissed would not be reinstated after the strike.

This could be another stumbling block in negotiations. He also said that the board had no intention of closing pits in the Doncaster area.

While it has not proved so simple in other areas, the South Wales leaders believe they have a duty to maintain what is undoubtedly the union's strongest bastion. Even in Yorkshire, thousands of men have returned to work but in the South Wales valleys only 342 miners reported for duty yesterday according to the National Coal Board, less than 2 per cent of the 19,500-strong workforce.

No coal has been produced in the region since the strike began and the union disputes the board's return-to-work figures, claiming that only 281 men reported for duty yesterday.

The South Wales men had put great faith in peace proposals put forward by church leaders but rejected by Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary. Now they pin their hopes on a break-through in next week's national talks. The South Wales miners' president, Mr Emyr Williams, said that the executive would decide if the men would go back to work if the negotiations failed.

They were seething about Mrs Thatcher's comments on television and almost universally said that it would be foolish for the Government to attempt to humiliate them.

One man said: "Mrs Thatcher will not be able to claim any victory here. We feel let down by our own men. If we could have all stood together we would have had victory now."

Another said: "All they want is Arthur's head on a pole. Let's hope next Tuesday that the moderates on the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers find out exactly what they want to do to us. We're not going to let them."

Frustrated miners refuse to submit

THERE is a change of mood among Yorkshire miners but it would be wrong to assume that they are not prepared to stay on strike.

Miners seemed frustrated and angry yesterday about what they perceived to be an announcement about next week's talks.

They were seething about Mrs Thatcher's comments on television and almost universally said that it would be foolish for the Government to attempt to humiliate them.

One man said: "Mrs Thatcher will not be able to claim any victory here. We feel let down by our own men. If we could have all stood together we would have had victory now."

Another said: "All they want is Arthur's head on a pole. Let's hope next Tuesday that the moderates on the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers find out exactly what they want to do to us. We're not going to let them."

There is a kind of somber acceptance that more men are going to return to work, albeit slowly, or that there has to be some movement in the union in the talks. Few ever see the men's resolve as still there.

One who had stood on a picket line all day yesterday said: "She might want Arthur's head but I'll tell you this, Arthur Scargill has been meeting and sell us short. They might have to shift but we will not be sold out."

The men said they felt that the real issue of the dispute, the closure of pits, had been obscured. That would not be possible next week.

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Inner-city task forces 'a cover for cuts'

By Alan Dunn

Civil Service task forces set up by the Government to tackle the problems of deprived inner cities were condemned yesterday as bureaucratic incompetence, a brake on local initiative, inefficient, cosmetic and a cover for government cuts in grant aid.

The charge came from Councillor Kevin Coombes, leader of Merseyside County Council, at a Liverpool town-hall meeting of five Labour authorities which are to have task forces later this year.

Councillor Coombes said that he spoke from Merseyside's experience as the only area in Britain to have a task force set up after the Turkish riots in 1981.

After three hours of talks Councillor Tony Millwood, economic chairman of Hackney council, London, said: "The council will not willingly go along with the kind of deal Liverpool has had."

"We had a vague idea that the task forces were about galvanising government resources to tackle local problems, but we were amazed to hear that in terms of achievement very little has been done."

Representatives from Hackney, Manchester/Salford, Tyne and Wear, Islington, and the West Midlands heard Mr Coombes condemn the Merseyside task force, which labour force had risen from a handful to more than 40, including vacancies, as substituting government inactivity for local activity.

He catalogued what he called the force's inability to tackle problems or to respond quickly to need.

"Delay frustrates local enterprise and initiative," said Mr Coombes. "If the metropolitan councils were abolished as the Government planned, their savings could be claimed by the task forces, which would be a defeat for the local electorate."

The lesson of the miners' strike for the Sizewell nuclear power inquiry is that the Central Electricity Generating Board is not as vulnerable to industrial action as its heavy reliance on coal might suggest, the inquiry was told this week.

In a closing submission for the Council for the Protection of Rural England on Thursday Mr John Taylor, QC, said that when the public hearing began two years ago everyone was conscious of the "unspoken" Scargill factor, and the way it seemed to support the CEGB's case for a larger proportion of nuclear power generation in Britain.

But the strike had shown that by a combination of forward planning, stockpiling, switching to oil and general technical ingenuity, the board could maintain supplies without resorting to the Government's emergency powers.

The stoppage had not, admittedly, been total. But the developing split in the National Union of Mineworkers would make future strikes less disruptive. Strike action was not such a threat as to justify a nuclear power station whose cost-effectiveness the council believed, was at best marginal.

This week's hearings began with a final statement from Tuesday.

The CPRE based its case more on economic arguments. Mr Taylor suggested that the council's own capital cost estimate of £7,000 million for Sizewell B still looked more probable than the CEGB's £1,147 million, which would lead to higher, not lower, electricity prices.

Regional arguments in inland oil and coal prices—the latter having fallen by 25 per cent over the past four years—had also weakened the council's contention that Sizewell was needed to counter ever increasing fossil fuel costs. The council believed, on the contrary, that so such station need to be ordered for another 10 years if then.

The inquiry resumes on Tuesday.

Witnesses from the Kallei restaurant in Barking claimed that Mr Elmore, of Dagenham, who was suspected of running a protection racket, and Mr Waddington, of Barking, were attacked and killed after they had finished a meal and that the bodies were buried near an east coast beach.

Mr William Denny, QC, prosecuting, claimed that Mr Elmore was David Reader, aged 35, long-standing friend of Mr Elmore's brother Ronald, aged 42, Maxwell's brother was attacked believed to be in Spain, was with an axe by Mr Elmore.

Loft insulation grants cut after poor response

By John Hooper, Energy Correspondent

The public's failure to take up the money on offer for loft insulation has led the Government to cut back the sums available for it.

Discounting administration costs, the sum which is to be made available by the Government for loft insulation during 1985/86 will be £4 million less than during the current financial year. Even then, £7 million—a quarter of the allocation for the coming year—will be kept in reserve.

The basic insulation grant is £80, although as much as £85 is available to low income families. Until last summer grants were only available for premises with no insulation. The money available for loft insulation is allocated individually to local authorities.

The biggest cut of all will be in the London borough of Lambeth, where the amount available is to fall from £158,000 to £20,000—a drop of 87 per cent.

In spite of the Department of Energy's "Top up on top" campaign, which began shortly after the range of homes eligible for the scheme was extended, the Government estimates that only about £17.5 million of the £32 million on offer will be taken up this year.

But Mr Andrew Warren, director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, said yesterday: "The advertising up to now has been principally concerned with tank jackets and draught-proofing, not loft insulation."

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Date and place of negotiations expected to be announced

Soviet Union to make arms talks declaration

Moscow: The Soviet Foreign Ministry is to hold a news conference this evening on the forthcoming Soviet-US arms control talks.

The ministry said its chief spokesman, Mr. Vladimir Lomeiko, would give the conference. It gave no further details.

The timing suggested that a simultaneous announcement would be made in Washington, which is eight hours behind Moscow time.

The two Superpowers agreed at talks in Geneva on January 7 and 8 to announce the time and place of the new arms negotiations within a month.

The last time the Soviet Foreign Ministry called an evening news conference there was a simultaneous announcement of the holding of the Geneva meeting between the Foreign Minister, Mr. Gromyko, and the US Secretary of State, Mr. Shultz.

On Thursday, the Politburo discussed the organisation of the Kremlin's delegation to the arms talks. However, in the United States, the chief US negotiator for the talks, Mr. Alexander Karpman, denounced the Soviet Union.

According to Tass, the Politburo adopted "an appropriate decision... including on organisational questions with regard to the Soviet delegation to the talks."

Mr. Karpman denounced the Soviet Union in an article which said the Soviet Union was "governed by a political and military elite engaged in a deliberate programme to intimidate and frighten the world."

Writing in the February issue of the anti-defamation League bulletin of B'nai B'rith, a Jewish organisation, Mr. Karpman said the Soviet values and our security. But we share the same globe. We must learn to live "together." The article was based on a speech delivered

before he was appointed chief US negotiator.

In another article, due to appear in the New York Times magazine tomorrow, Mr. Karpman expressed strong doubts that a breakthrough in arms-control talks was possible in the near future.

The Soviet Union has meanwhile attacked the military mission of the United States space shuttle and called it a first step in President Reagan's "star wars" plans.

An article in Pravda said the shuttle was being used by those who wanted to make space a battleground in their campaign to attain global mastery.

"All this shows that the preparation in the United States for the space spiral of the arms race is continuing unceasingly," Pravda said.

Reports by Pravda and Tass said the shuttle was due to put into orbit a satellite to spy on the Soviet Union.

The controversy about a news blackout on the latest US shuttle mission contrasts with the total secrecy shrouding Moscow's military space effort, which includes work on reusable craft.

Although Soviet space officials have confirmed to Western reporters that they are developing a shuttle-like vehicle, they have given no details.

The entire military space programme is secret and no public reference is made to it. According to authoritative Western space publications and experts, the Soviet Union is working on two reusable military craft.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has postponed indefinitely a visit to Moscow by the former West German chancellor, Willy Brandt, amid reports that President Chernenko is ailing. The West German Social Democratic Party said in Bonn yesterday. — Reuter/AP.

Gromyko Jun. in alert

Stockholm: Professor Anatoly Gromyko, son of the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, has told a seminar that it is vital for us to do away with the race before it does away with us.

"Parity makes it possible to stop the arms race," Gromyko said in a lecture on Thursday at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute headquarters.

"As a first step, agreement could be reached on a mutual freeze of nuclear weapons of the Soviet Union and the United States, with the other nuclear powers following suit," he said.

"The experience of recent decades shows that more weapons does not mean greater security. Genuine security can only be achieved and strengthened on a basis of equality and equal security," Mr. Gromyko said in the lecture.

Gaol term for neo-Nazi leaders

FRANKFURT: A Frankfurt court yesterday convicted the neo-Nazi leader, Michael Kuehnemann (below), of distributing banned extremist propaganda and sentenced him to three years and four months in gaol.

The 29-year-old former West German army lieutenant — a self-proclaimed successor to Adolf Hitler — was extradited from France last October to stand trial.

The court convicted Kuehnemann and his aide, Armin Heitz, aged 27, of producing and distributing illegal propaganda for a right-wing extremist group called the Action Front National Socialists-National Activists.

The group has been banned by the interior Ministry for advocating violence and promoting Nazi ideology.

Kuehnemann stood at attention and shouted "Resistance" when the sentence was read in a courtroom jammed with his right-wing supporters wearing black leather jackets.

Lawyers for both contended that they broke no laws by advocating a lifting of the ban on Hitler's Nazi Party.

But the judge rejected the argument, and said there was no legal way that they could pursue their goal of restoring the party in West Germany.

Kuehnemann and Marx said that they would appeal against the verdicts and sentences.

Both have been in custody since before the trial began in mid-November.

Anna Tomford, address: During his trial, Kuehnemann said his organisation wanted to create a political climate in West Germany that would enable the formation of a Nazi party.

In his final statement, he warned the court against the possible negative consequences of his conviction. "You will have to consider whether it is better to have desperate people planting bombs or politicians like me who try to tread the path of legality."

Despite the evident over-estimation of his own importance, Kuehnemann's warning cannot be dismissed out of hand, according to security sources.

Church steamed up about 'virgin'

By David Hearst

Jean Luc Godard, enfant terrible of the French cinema, felt sure the Catholic Church would welcome his latest film, *Hall Mary*, about the Immaculate Conception. The subject was close to their hearts and they had said they would give it a "warm" reception.

Mr Godard did his best to oblige. His "modern version" portrays Mary as a basket-balancing daughter of a petrol station manager. Joseph, her disbelieving but faithful boyfriend, a taxi-driver who devours science fiction paperbacks, and the Archangel Gabriel as a foul-mouthed and often violent drifter.

Mary, played by France's latest teenage heartthrob, Myrène Rousset, appears naked, is declared a virgin after an examination by her family doctor, and writhes in frustration on the verge of masturbation.

Within 48 hours of its release the film was banned by the mayor of Versailles, Mr Andre Damien, who wishes to avert a serious breach of the peace in his town, and is the subject of court orders which two local Catholic associations are seeking to obtain to have the film banned throughout France.

Even the preview of the film in Versailles was interrupted on Tuesday when militants from the local Catholic Families Association burst into the cinema and made off with one of the film's reels.

Mr Godard, a French-born Protestant, cannot understand what the fuss is about. He said that he never intended to strike a blow at the Catholic religion. Although unconcerned about claims from religious groups that the film is blasphemous and shocking, Mr Godard is nonetheless perturbed at what he sees as the rise of intolerance and deep-seated anxiety in France.

"There is no more dialogue in France and that's a shame," he said. The dialogue in *Hall Mary* has been described as "hermetic" even by Mr Godard's standards.

"I am who I am because I exist," says the four-year-old Jesus in the film. "Keep quiet and get in the car," Joseph answers.

For Mr Godard, controversy is nothing new. In 1963, his film about French soldiers and the Algerian war prompted some political leaders to demand his deportation from France.

"I am used to being attacked," Mr Godard said. "I know I've done my job when I get strong reactions."

Using his Kluge-Klein tactics, he never gets anyone very far," he said. Blacks answer him with jazz: I answer with my films.

Warning on ozone

From Ian Guest in Geneva

A UN meeting was told here yesterday that 500,000 extra cases of skin cancer, and 10,000 extra deaths, could result annually within 50 years if urgent measures are not taken to prevent further depletion of the ozone layer.

The warning was given by Mr Alex Chisholm, from the Canadian Department of the Environment, on the final day of a meeting of the UN environment programme (Unep) to review a draft convention on the protection of the ozone layer.

The layer extends for roughly 30 miles above the earth's surface and acts as a filter against cancer-causing ultra-violet rays.

The convention is due to be finalised at a diplomatic conference in Vienna.

Turkish-Cypriot poll deals blow to settlement hopes

From Ian Black in Nicosia

A further blow to hopes for a speedy settlement of the Cyprus problem was delivered yesterday, when a date was announced for general elections in the secessionist Turkish Republic in the northern third of the island.

The government of the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus said that elections to the Constituent Assembly would be held on June 23, and would be followed by local elections.

The announcement follows the breakdown of talks at the UN last weekend. With the active involvement of the secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, they were aimed at reaching a peaceful solution to the Cyprus issue by setting up a bizonal, bicommunal federal

republic. The negotiations foundered because of a failure to resolve the question of a Turkish troop withdrawal.

The June elections will be the first in the north since the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Rauf Denktash, declared an independent state 14 months ago. Mr Denktash has been saying for some time that he planned elections and, while the announcement came as no surprise, its timing was being interpreted as consolidating the existence of the illegal state in the north. Mr Denktash has also said in the past that a referendum will be held on a new constitution.

Turkish Cypriot officials said yesterday that there was no contradiction between consolidating their own state and their declared readiness to negotiate a peaceful settlement.

The Nicosia Government is especially sensitive to any moves which can be interpreted as consolidating the existence of the illegal state in the north. Mr Denktash has also said in the past that a referendum will be held on a new constitution.

Reagan's 'Iran alarm' draws scepticism

From Michael White in Washington

President Reagan's claim that Iran is poised to channel arms and terrorist techniques to the leftwing regime in Nicaragua was sustained by only scant evidence yesterday, and greeted with some scepticism by its target audience on Capitol Hill.

After the President's remarks about "a new danger" in Central America to legislators from the region on Wednesday, the White House cited the present visit to Nicaragua of Iran's Prime Minister, Mr Hussein Mousavi, as proof of political support for the Sandinistas.

It also spoke of unspecified

reason to believe that Iran is in the process of arranging support in the form of oil supplies and funding for arms shipments which would add to the Nicaraguan arsenal.

A White House spokesman, Mr Robert Sims, described the visit as a potential source of aid to neighbouring countries, as was "the potential for some expansion of terrorism in this hemisphere."

There was general agreement, however, that President Reagan's alarm was just the latest attempt to soften up congressional and public opinion in the increasingly forlorn hope of obtaining the votes necessary for the \$14 million

needed by the CIA to support the contras in Nicaragua this year.

That figure is itself a 50 per cent compromise. Its prospects have weakened in the recent days with statements by key congressional figures, notably Senator Richard Lugar, the new chairman on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that it will probably fail to clear the Senate.

The President's warning about increased terrorism in the Western Hemisphere, reiterated Latin American lobbyists here because the CIA-backed contras stand accused of savage excesses inside their own country. Moderate Republicans and Democrats, who believed

that the Sandinistas were breaching international law and should be kept under continuing US pressure to leave their neighbours alone, seem now to agree that a covert programme which is no longer overtly American interests as much as Nicaragua.

The search, therefore, is on for other means of applying pressure, on the assumption that the President will not get his \$14 million. Senator Lugar has already announced his committee's intention to hold a wide-ranging series of hearings this spring on the nature and direction of US foreign policy, in a search for a new consensus which has eluded Americans for a decade.

Argentine fends off backlash

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

THE Government yesterday fended off a nationalist backlash against President Alfonsín's planned treaty ending a territorial dispute with Chile.

The backlash came after claims that Britain made a deal with General Pinochet's regime during the Falklands war.

Guatemala election may be delayed by military

From Paul Kilman in Guatemala City

Slow progress towards a fresh constitution has raised strong doubts about whether elections for a new parliament and civilian president can be held in Guatemala next July 1.

The possibility that the poll may be postponed has arisen amid signs that the ruling military is divided about how far it is prepared to go towards accepting a free and fair election.

The Constituent Assembly, elected last July 1, has so far managed to approve only 30 of the 250 articles contained in the draft constitution presented by the Christian Democratic Party.

The Christian Democrats, the third highest group in the 39-member Assembly with 20 seats, caused considerable surprise by presenting such a long draft constitution.

Mr Vinicio Cerezo, the party leader, indicated before last Colonel Mario Paz, is to be transferred to another post. The move has heightened concern that the military may be planning a speedy transition to civilian rule.

The military regime, headed by General Efraim Rios Montt, who took power in a coup in August 1983, has promised to allow Guatemalans freely to choose a civilian president for the first time in more than 30 years.

The last freely-elected civilian president, Jacobo Arbenz, was overthrown in a CIA-sponsored coup in 1954.

Government officials have lately been dropping heavy hints that there might not be sufficient funds to finance an election next July, even though this would occur barely half way through the financial year.

There is a widespread consensus inside the Guatemalan officer corps that it is time to put a civilian in the presidential palace, if only to secure a resumption of US military aid.

Meanwhile, the principal architect of the Guatemalan army's counterinsurgency strategy, Colonel Mario Paz, is to be transferred to another post. The move has heightened concern that the military may be planning a speedy transition to civilian rule.

Amnesty offer rejected

From Paul Glickman in Tegucigalpa

The two Nicaraguan guerrilla groups based in Honduras have rejected President Daniel Ortega's offer of amnesty.

Earlier this week President Ortega presented his amnesty proposal to the Sandinista National Assembly for approval. The law would cover all anti-Sandinista forces who turn in their weapons. President Ortega promised.

The Directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDM), the largest contra group, issued a statement saying that a Sandinista offer "lacks credibility and validity."

A leader of the Misura Indian guerrillas called the amnesty offer a trap. A Misura political commission member, Mr Adas Artola, said the Sandinistas had granted amnesty once before.

Time owes 'victory' to bias in libel law

Jane Rosen, in New York, on the absence of malice

Time magazine owes its victory against Ariel Sharon — if the jury's verdict can be termed a victory — to a deliberate bias in American libel law. To protect the press's right to criticise public figures and public figures, the law makes it exceedingly hard for a public figure, like Israel's former defence minister, to win a libel judgment — much harder than it would be in Britain.

The US Supreme Court defined the standards for finding libel in a landmark decision 30 years ago. To ensure freedom of the press and free discussion of public issues, the court required that public figures must prove "actual malice". The article in question must not only be false and defamatory, it must have been published maliciously, meaning with the knowledge that it was false or with "serious doubts" as to its truth or with "reckless disregard" for whether it was true or false.

Moreover, the burden of proof is on the party who is suing, not on the publication being sued. The requirement for proving malice is so difficult that the press was almost all libel suits by public officials. While juries have sometimes found malice, in 75 per cent of those cases their findings have been reversed by appeals courts.

Thus, in contrast to other professions, journalists are hardly ever penalised for making mistakes. In the Time magazine case, Mr Sharon succeeded in proving that the article about his link with the 1982 Phalangist massacre of Palestinian refugees in Beirut was both false and defamatory. During the two-month-long trial the jury found "clear and convincing evidence" that Mr Sharon did not discuss

with Phalangist leaders a need to take revenge for the assassination of their leader, Bashir Gemayel.

The jury also found that the article defamed Mr Sharon by implying that he intended the Phalangists to massacre the Palestinian refugees. Then the jury settled down to examine the key legal issue: did Time publish the article with "actual malice"? Judge Abraham Sofaer, who presided over the trial, painstakingly explained the law to the four women and two men on the jury.

In the end the jurors decided unanimously that Time's writers and editors must have believed that their story was true. In a sense both sides won, and both sides lost. Mr Sharon claimed a "moral victory" and he did, indeed,

prove that Time was wrong. Still, he lost the law suit, and his many opponents in Israel are certain to read the case that way.

Time also claimed a victory which was legally justified. None the less its reputation has been tarnished and its credibility undermined.

The decision has been widely praised. The verdict affirms the law's special protections for free press. But it also underscores the obligations that the media bear. "The New York Times said," the jury found an absence of malice but no shortage of arrogance (on Time's part).

As for the rulings' impact, a libel lawyer and expert on press laws, Mr Edward Abrams, believes that it will lead to fewer libel suits in the future. "Public officials who con-

stantly sue newspapers will look at the fact that General Sharon, having proved defamation, falsity and negligence, still lost his case."

Some journalists still believe that articles about public figures should have an absolute immunity from libel suits, otherwise aggressive investigative reporting might be discouraged.

Arie Haskell adds from Jerusalem: Mr Sharon, undeterred by the failure of his New York action, is pressing ahead with a suit in Israeli courts against the European editor of Time. No date has been set for a hearing on the claim for \$250,000 damages for libel.

Experts believe Mr Sharon has more chance of success in the domestic suit because under Israeli law libel is considered proven if the published statement is found to be false and defamatory. Malice need not be established.

Bhopal scale disaster averted in US

From Alex Khammer in Washington

UNION Carbide said last night that the company had taken quick action to correct a potential "catastrophic failure" in the methyl isocyanate storage tank at its plant in Bhopal, India, which could potentially have led to a disaster on the Bhopal scale.

At a press conference at the firm's headquarters in Danbury, Connecticut, company safety officials said the problem discovered in the tank's cooling system at its West Virginia plant had been corrected on October 10, 1984, a month after its report was completed.

According to an internal company safety report released on Capitol Hill in Washington, the problem in the Bhopal plant could have potentially led to a "catastrophic failure" of the tank. The tank is just five miles from the town of Bhopal, the largest city in the state. The plant is surrounded by hundreds of chemical workers' homes and a school.

The initial warning at the plant was issued after a regular safety audit by the company's inspectors on September 11, 1984, some three months before the release of MIC at the firm's jointly-controlled Indian plant which killed more than 2,000 people. The company said yesterday that the corrections made in the tank were not genuine to the safety of the tank. The tank at Bhopal had a different cooling system.

Allegations of serious safety deficiencies at the Institute plant led the company yesterday to release its report of September 11, and another dated October 10, 1984, which detailed the corrections made. The company emphasised that there had been no "imminent" danger at the Institute. This is a classification which would have required Union Carbide to close its Institute facility. As it is, the West Virginia plant has been closed pending the completion of all the investigations at Bhopal.

Details of the potential horror at the Institute were made available by Congressman Henry Waxman, who heads the health and environment subcommittee in the House of Representatives. The report noted "no concerns of an imminent nature" at the plant.

However, company safety officers explained yesterday that the problem with the storage tank had resulted in the release of five liquid leakages of MIC — and acknowledged that it by some series of accidents, they had happened together, there could have been a serious danger to employees.

The report released by Mr Waxman and made public by the company yesterday noted the possibility of a "runaway" reaction. "We warned that there was a serious risk of plant workers being overexposed to chlorine, which even in small doses is known to cause birth defects. The report also noted a series of steps designed to enhance the long-term storage facilities for MIC."

Among the technical points made was that workers operating near the tanks "do not have a workable instrumental method" for detecting leaks. The safety team noted that "the effort was under way to find such an instrument and strongly supported its installation."

Union Carbide has been rocked this week by the Waxman disclosures and the publication by the Environmental Protection Agency of a report detailing 38 accidents leaks at the Institute plant. The company confirmed that such leaks had taken place, but disputed one account which put the amount of gas leaked at over 800 lb. It says that this figure was due to a calculation error.

Not surprisingly, the disclosures have led to a high level of concern in and around Bhopal. One of the US largest chemical manufacturers, Union Carbide, is a little more serious than the company had led us to believe," said Mr David Gribble, a spokesman for the West Virginia Citizens Action Group. He expressed doubts about the company's credibility.

It was also noted yesterday that earlier, the company had maintained that its Institute plant and the Bhopal plant in India were essentially the same. But, according to yesterday's accounts, there was a substantial difference in the cooling system, contradicting those earlier suggestions.

As a result of the Institute revelations, Mr Waxman's committee is calling for details of safety reports from more than 2,000 potentially hazardous chemical production plants around the country for immediate analysis by Congress. This is almost certain to end up tightening safety standards.

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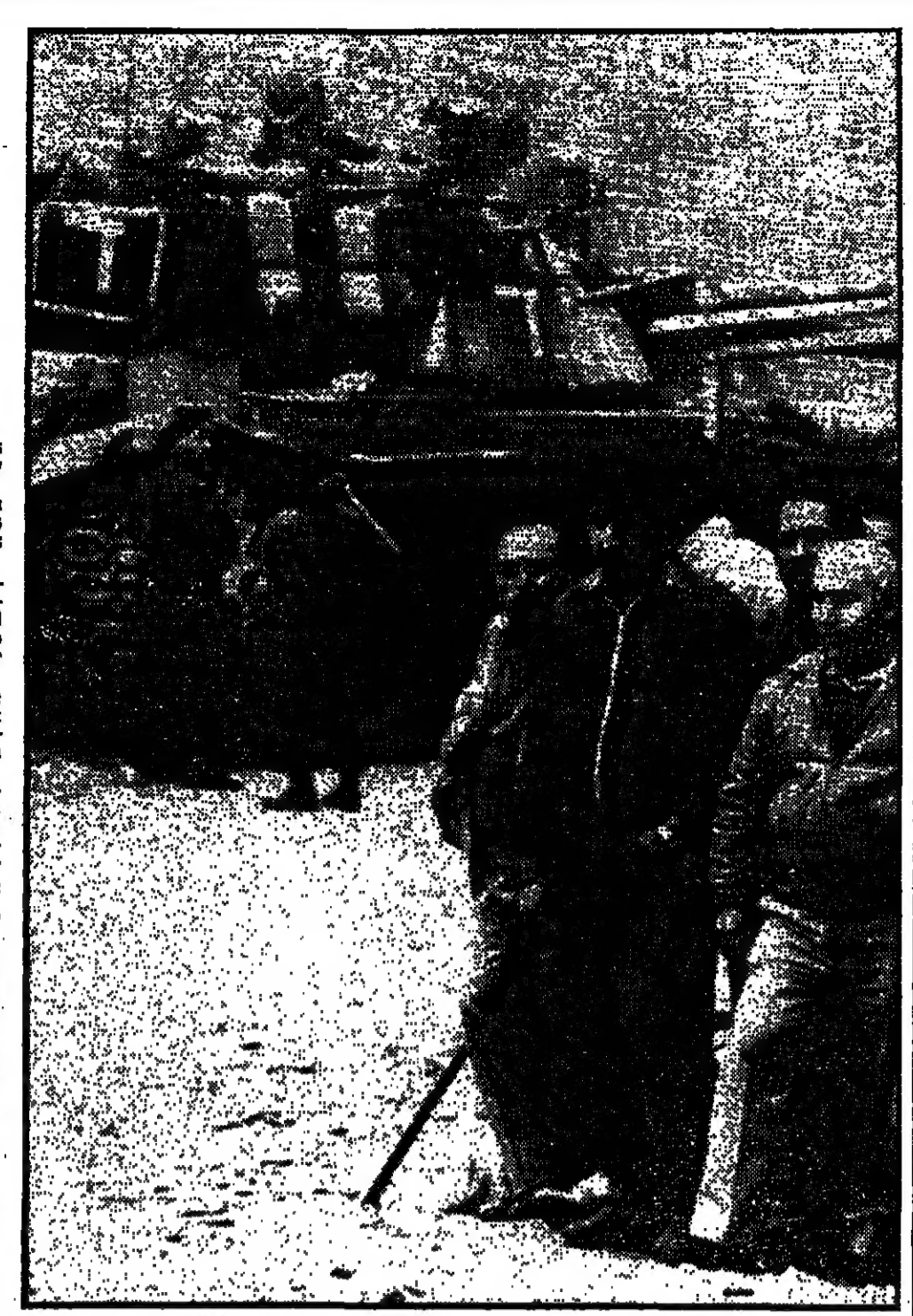
\$1.9bn in arms aid likely for Israelis

From John Goshko in Washington
The Administration, after resolving objections by the Office of Management and Budget to increased military aid for Israel, plans to send Congress for approximately \$1.9 billion in security assistance for the Jewish state next year.
Officials said on Thursday that the figure was approved by the White House after the Secretary of State, Mr. Shultz, reached agreement with the OMB director, Mr. David Stockman, on a formula circumventing the Budget Office's desire to freeze Israeli military aid at the present fiscal year level of \$1.4 billion, as part of an economy drive.
The formal aid request originally submitted by Israel totalled about \$4 billion: \$2.1 billion in military assistance and \$1.9 billion in economic aid, plus an additional immediate infusion of \$200 million to help stem Israel's economic crisis.
Israeli officials said that Israel last month submitted a document outlining possible economic and military aid requirements totalling \$12 billion over the next three years.
The officials stressed, however, that those portions of the document dealing with the years after 1986 did not constitute a formal request, but were preliminary long-range projections of anticipated future needs and "almost surely will be subject to revision" depending on how the Israel Government fares in controlling the country's economic crisis.
Despite the enormous size of these actual and anticipated requests, Israeli supporters say they have encountered almost no opposition in Congress.
OMB's argument that an increase for Israel would prompt automatic increases for other interest groups was opposed by an internal administration coalition of Mr. Shultz, the Defense Secretary, Mr. Weinberger, and the National Security Affairs Advisory Board.
"I believe that the increase is necessary to maintain Israel's pre-eminent military position in the Middle East and to help combat the economic crisis," the measures, coupled with other adjustments, that Congress made in approving its so-called "base line" budgetary figures from one fiscal year to the next, were expected to provide sufficient funds to cover the increase. — Washington Post

Lebanon's foreign exchanges close as currency slides

Israel says withdrawal goes ahead

Tel Aviv: Israel said yesterday that the first phase of its troop withdrawal in Lebanon will go ahead next month, despite concern that it might cause new factional fighting.
The UN envoy, Mr. Brian Urquhart, held talks with the Defense Minister, Mr. Rabin, yesterday, and officials said afterwards that the Israelis planned to stick to their timetable.
"We are definitely pulling out as scheduled," one official said. Mr. Urquhart, the UN under-secretary-general for special political affairs, left later for Beirut.
In Lebanon, bankers closed foreign exchange markets yesterday as the once-resilient Lebanese pound threatened to collapse, sparking widespread despair about the nation's future.
Israel and Lebanon on Thursday broke off talks on security arrangements at the border village of Naqura after Israeli troops withdrew from southern Lebanon, but Mr. Urquhart said yesterday he would continue his efforts to arrange an orderly withdrawal.
Israel has dismantled front line positions in the Sidon area and says it will complete the first phase of a three-stage withdrawal by February 18. Many of Lebanon's factions have militiamen in the area, and recent clashes and the attempt to kill the Sunni Muslim leader, Mustafa Saad, on Monday, have intensified fears of a battle for territorial control once the Israelis leave.
Mr. Urquhart said that he had discussed how to get the Naqura talks going again during a 30-minute meeting with Mr. Rabin.
He added: "I can't give you a date now for when or if the talks will be held next. It's a complicated process, but we'll keep on trying." He said he



Border wait: Clutching small parcels, Lebanese civilians wait at the Bate el Chuf crossing point in front of an Israeli tank for permission to cross into southern Lebanon

Mosque renovations spark unholy row

From Kathryn Davies in Cairo
Renovating work on Egypt's most frequented mosque, which might place valuable medieval relics at risk, has been halted by a row between the country's biggest building contractor and Egypt's official antiquities committee.
The permanent Scientific Committee for Islamic and Coptic Monuments, whose 25 members have submitted their resignations to the Prime Minister, accuse Arab Contractors, a multi-million-pound company with strong links to the ruling National Democratic Party, of beginning unauthorised and damaging renovations on the Hussein Mosque here.
The main building of the mosque, where President Mubarak and his ministers pray on Islamic holy days, was constructed in the nineteenth century in a European neo-Gothic style with Turkish minarets. But it is on a very ancient site, where Muslims believe the head of Hussein, grandson of the Prophet and son of Ali, the fourth and last of the orthodox Caliphs, is buried.
Conservationists fear that two valuable medieval relics — a green gate from the Fatimid period (the Fatimids founded Cairo in AD 969) and an Ayyubid minaret constructed in AD 1237 — are now at risk. The Ayyubids, succeeded Saladin, who fought the Crusaders.
No-one disputes that repairs must be made to the basic structure of the building and its surrounding walls to deal with existing damage, but the committee does not agree with Arab Contractors' methods.
After more than a year of argument, the company earlier this week went ahead and demolished the dome and part of the walls, prompting the chairman of the monuments committee, Dr. Ahmed Kader, and all the other members, to resign in protest.
Arab Contractors deny they have acted without the authorisation of Dr. Kader and his fellow archaeologists, architects, and conservationists.
A senior company official, Mr. Hassan Nassef, said that Arab Contractors offered their engineering consultancy services for the mosque renovations free of charge. The work itself is likely to cost about \$1 million.
Mr. Nassef said he had suggested to the monuments committee that the medieval minaret could be cut up into pieces while the work was in progress and put back together later. The offer was declined.
Work has now stopped on the mosque while the Government tries to reconcile the views of its own culture minister, the monuments committee, and Arab Contractors. The protesters doubt that anything can now be done to save the antiquities.
Mr. Nassef says he is willing to abide by the wishes of the monuments committee, even though, as he says, "they think as archaeologists, we think as engineers."

Unity at Muslim funeral

Sidon, Lebanon: Five thousand members of Sidon's Muslim and Christian communities united yesterday to attend the funeral of a Muslim leader's daughter, who was killed by a car bomb attack on the leader's home.
Some mourners shouted their determination to avoid sectarian conflict when the Israelis leave by shouting such slogans as "No Muslim, no Christian, but national unity," as they marched through Sidon.
An anti-Israeli protest strike shut down the city and many nearby Muslim and Christian villages throughout the day. — Reuters/AP

Refugee surge expected in Sudan

By Nick Cater and agencies
A senior Sudanese refugee official yesterday warned that conditions in eastern Sudan could deteriorate rapidly, as up to 400,000 Tigrines come across the border in the next few months.
Mr. Ahmed Karadawi, the deputy commissioner for refugees, said: "The worst is yet to come. We have been told that if food does not go to Tigré, the people will come out. Only a trickle of food is getting in."
Food supplies for refugee camps in Sudan are all but exhausted. With thousands of people arriving every day the plight of new refugees was worsening, he said.
Mr. Karadawi's warning was echoed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Poul Hartling, who said that the number of new arrivals had increased by 40,000 in less than two weeks, "and there is no sign that the influx, averaging 3,000 a day, is abating."
The total now stands at more than 210,000, according to Mr. Hartling. A source close to his office said it was feared the number may soar to more than a half million before the end of the spring.
"All our emergency funds are dried up and we are urgently awaiting further contributions from other countries," said a UNHCR spokesman. The emergency was likely to need \$100 million before the crisis eased, he added.
In Ethiopia, meanwhile, unseasonal rain yesterday brought new health hazards for Ethiopian refugees clustered in some 200 camps.
Mr. Berhane Gizaw, an official of Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, said the rain in all 14 of the country's administrative regions could threaten famines with potentially fatal illnesses.
It was the first rain since September, when freak downpours hit the area around the capital, destroying crops and killing at least 50 thousands of people.
At the same time, thousands of refugees from Chad and starving Sudanese have converged on a small reception camp in northern Sudan.
UNHCR officials said 17,000 Chadians and Sudanese seeking food had gathered at a camp being set up at Azerna, near the Chad border, to accommodate 10,000 drought victims.
They said half of them had crossed from Chad and the rest were Sudanese from the province of Northern Darfur where the Khartoum Government fears the drought may reduce the normal harvest by half.

Vietnamese offensive escalates as UN chief visits Thailand

From Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok
The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, arrived here yesterday on a South-East Asian tour, as Vietnamese troops launched new attacks on Kampuchean resistance guerrillas near the Thai border.
Mr. Perez de Cuellar will discuss regional issues notably Kampuchea, before flying, via Vientiane, to Hanoi. He has not revealed whether he is carrying any specific proposals.
His visit, which coincides with the biggest Vietnamese dry season offensive against Kampuchean resistance groups since it invaded six years ago, is not seen as coming at a particularly auspicious moment for any new initiative.
On the eve of Mr. Perez de Cuellar's arrival, Vietnamese artillery bombarded the camp of Donkang, the last remaining civilian camp controlled by the non-Communist Khmer People's Liberation Front, which has been the brunt of Hanoi's offensive.
Up to 14 people were reported killed and 30 wounded in the shelling, which sent the camp's 22,000 inhabitants fleeing to the Thai border.
Vietnam has now attacked all the KPNLF's civilian and military border camps except the small guerrilla base of Santor Changan, near Donkang, which is occupied by 1,500 guerrillas and is seen as a probable target for the Vietnamese.
A number of KPNLF mili-

Emergency extended in Noumea

PARIS: The National Assembly yesterday extended the state of emergency in the Pacific island of New Caledonia until June 30.
But the vote was overshadowed by an unexpected offer from Mr. Diet Uebelode, president of the island's conservative local government and a senator in Paris, to meet the independence leader, Mr. Jean-Marie Tjibaou, for talks.
Mr. Uebelode had said an arrival here earlier this week that he could not meet Mr. Tjibaou, also in Paris, describing him as "in rebellion" against France.
Speaking to the Senate, Mr. Uebelode castigated the Government's decision to extend the state of emergency, saying it discriminated against loyalist New Caledonians and favoured the separatists.
But he then noted that "a representative" — Mr. Tjibaou — of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) "has said he is a man of peace and dialogue and I invite him to the negotiating table."
Mr. Tjibaou said later that he would accept any exchanges, "no matter where, no matter when," if they dealt with how the island group would achieve independence.
In Noumea, Mr. Pisano's high commission office announced that six government public works officials were beaten up and injured yesterday by FLNKS supporters armed with clubs. — AP

Indian spy suspect seeks bail

New Delhi: The personal assistant to the Prime Minister's former principal secretary — one of 15 people arrested in India's spy scandal — pleaded his innocence and asked for bail yesterday.
The Press Trust of India said Mr. T. N. Kher made his bail application before a metropolitan magistrate, Bharat Bhushan, and that it would be heard on Monday.
PTI quoted the application as saying Mr. Kher had been falsely implicated and had been unable to meet his family or lawyer since his arrest. The principal secretary, Mr. P. C. Alexander, resigned after the scandal broke last week.
Mr. Bhushan also remanded in custody until Monday a personal assistant to President Singh's deputy secretary, Ashok Kumar, who was arrested a few days ago, the agency said.
A Delhi magistrate yesterday finished taking the statements of three prosecution witnesses, the agency said. Two prosecution witnesses from the office of the Prime Minister, Mr. Gandhi, made statements in camera to a magistrate on Thursday, PTI said.
The agency also quoted police in Bokaro, in the eastern state of Bihar, as saying that a top secret reference book with military communication codes was missing from a police wireless office.
Three office employees had been suspended and investigations were still going on, it said. It did not say if the inquiry was linked to the spy scandal. — Reuters/AP

Hawke backs US on nuclear warship

From Ian Templeton in Wellington
The Government's policy of banning visits by nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered warships has provoked the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Bob Hawke, to intervene.
Mr. Hawke has sent a "personal" letter to the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. David Lange, urging him to allow the proposed visit of an American warship to go ahead in March.
Mr. Hawke is clearly concerned that New Zealand's anti-nu-

clear stand will demolish the Anzus Alliance, which has been the cornerstone of the defence policy of both countries for more than 30 years.
Mr. Lange is visiting the New Zealand-administered Tokelau Islands, but the acting prime minister, Mr. Geoffrey Palmer, has confirmed here that the letter had been received from Mr. Hawke and a reply would be sent.
Mr. Hawke's intervention runs counter to earlier assurances from the Australian Foreign Minister, Mr. Bill Hayden, that Australia would not act as a "messenger boy" for the US Administration.
It is clear that Mr. Hawke's letter has not been received with any enthusiasm here. Earlier public support for the Government in denying the US visits by nuclear warships has been eroded by signs that the Anzus alliance will crumble if the Americans are told their warships are no longer welcome.
The influential Christchurch Press said recently that the country was blundering out of Anzus. For the sake of a gesture towards the concept of a nuclear-free South Pacific, the Government was prepared to wreck the country's defence policies without offering an alternative.
New Zealand seeks to enjoy full protection from the alliance while washing its hands with distaste at the possibility of having nuclear weapons in its coastal waters, the newspaper said.

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The Star. — Yours sincerely,
Amelia Cuckoo.

(continued)

At the horse fair in Jerez:

Gonzales bias

General information from Spanish National Tourist Office, 57 St James's Street, London SW1A 1LD. (01-499 0901). Leading Hotels of the World (01-583 3050).



How are we kidding?

Churchill Holidays is now incorporated in the Falcon Leisure Group and trades as Falcon Family Holidays. Mike Colleen of Falcon deprecates Paul Pickering's critique. He replies that the brochure is clear on the three hour period; that the play area castle is sturdy and safe and that the evening patrols do not enter the rooms so as to avoid disturbing the children. (Travel Ed.)

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WEEK-END ARTS

Pick of next week's television and radio

Monday

Court Report: Regina v Posing (C4, 10.55 and nightly for the duration of the trial, times vary). Godfrey Hodgson fronts half-hour reports on the trial of the senior civil servant accused of leaking Government documents on the Belgrano affair. The intention is for actors to read chunks of the proceedings verbatim — could be stylised if the case goes in camera.

Submarine (BBC-1, 7.40). Nice timing as we see the commander of the Warspite, HMS Conqueror's sister submarine, reeling in a mock attack on a merchant convoy in which he bags no less than 29 ships. Reality, however, is different. The sinking of the Belgrano, he says, "had a tremendous effect on us... I would have done it because that was required to win the war — I don't think I'd have taken much pleasure in doing so."

Four Days In July (BBC-1, 9.25). Intricate, tenuous and funny Mike Leigh play about two young Belfast couples — one Catholic, one Protestant — expecting their first child. The Catholics are all neighbourhood and Irish humour — even a spell in Long Kesh is treated as a joke as two veterans recall setting up a potter still in a lavatory cistern. Billy, the Protestant, is a jargonist, Jewish soldier in the UDR; his wife has to jump it.

Tuesday

Wildlife On One (BBC-1, 8.55). Like *Benjamin Franklin*, Abraham aboard a three-masted sailing ship, we pursue the giant humpback whales on their 3,000 mile migration to the Caribbean. Very televisual they are, too, as they glide through the water, making their eerie radiophonic noises and even presenting a cuddly one-and-a-half ton baby for our admiration.

The 30th Standard Drama Awards (ITV, 10.30). A chance to see clips from all the best TV drama of the year, missed last year in this mutual back-slapping event introduced by Ned Sherrin.

Wednesday

Blow-by Las Vegas (BBC-1, 9.25). This Real Lives film follows the British team in the World Hairdressing Championships through selection and training to the final snip against the clock. Two Welsh-Greek demon barbers crimp their way to glory in the men's event but as for the ladies... the game plan was to produce something "simple, classic, and expensive." So how come the models look as if blonde flying saucers have landed on their heads?

Diverse Reports (C4, 8.30). Christine Chapman in America arguing in favour of surrogate mothers operating commercially.

Thursday

The End Of The Pier Show (BBC-2, 9.30). One of those multi-eyed TV shows in the decline of another beloved British institution. Cromer has its drawbacks as a resort — "sometimes it's so bit-

terly cold it's like winter" — but it does have a summer show, just. Ten singing magicians and dancing comedians come on like a cast of thousands for a dwindling band of pensioners.

Speak Out (BBC-2, 5.30). International talk-in between British and Soviet teenagers, linked by satellite. They exchange their impressions of each other and their views on the likelihood of nuclear war.

Friday

A Week In Politics Special (C4, 8.15). Mrs Thatcher seems to be putting herself about a bit: interviews with her are becoming almost a weekly event. Here she will be talking to Peter Jay about the changes in British politics since she became Tory leader ten years ago. One change that will probably pass unmentioned is the one in our Washington Embassy round about the start of her premiership.

The Sonnets Of William Shakespeare (C4, 9.15). A. L. E. Jones puts over his theory that the Dark Lady of the Sonnets was even more of a dark horse than previously supposed and Ben Kingsley performs the sonnet, "In the old age black was not counted fair." Helen Oldfield

Radio

Today: Punk to Present: Anarchy in the UK? (Radio 1, 1 p.m.). Remember The Sex Pistols and their behaviour on TV? Mike Smith, in the second of his series on British rock music, talks to Richard Branson and some of the musicians of the day about the early days of punk.

Commonwealths of War (Radio 4, 8.30 p.m.). Philip Purser's play about a young soldier in the second world war, with Guy Holden as the hero.

Tomorrow: Weekend (Radio 4, 11.15 a.m.). Chairman of the BBC, Stuart Young, with Lord Amman and Tim Brinton talk about the future of public service broadcasting — or, to be more honest, start their public campaign for the licence fee.

Luther (Radio 3, 6.15 p.m.). Repeat of John Osborne's long and powerful play, with a prize-winning performance from Clive Merrison in the title role.

Monday: Shaping the Curriculum (Radio 3, 7 p.m.). Another burst of BBC concern about schooling, with some very high-powered contributors, including inspectors, teachers and Sir Keith.

Tuesday: A Touch of Midas? (Radio 4, 8.30 p.m.). Start of a five-part series about millionaires, all presented by William Davis, a millionaire himself. This week Michael Caine, the actor.

Wednesday: The Traveller (Radio 3, 7.30 p.m.). New play by prize-winning author of the excellent *Kamikaze* Ground Staff Reunion Dinner, Stewart Parker, about a traveller's exploration of Britain in an attempt to regain his peace of mind.

Val Arnold-Forster

TWO THINGS about Terry Gilliam come as a surprise: that the animator from the quintessentially British Monty Python team should be an American from Minneapolis; and that behind the lure of his humour lies a rather serious man.

His new film, *Brazil*, which opens in London next month, was wrapped in a thick cloak of secrecy while it was being produced. "We weren't sure what we were doing, so it was best not to say anything till we'd finished," Gilliam says.

"I so respect the world where every idea, every concept has to be easily marketable," the McDonald's hamburgers of ideas. When Gilliam was trying to raise the \$15 million to make *Brazil* he approached Paramount. "They said they were only making films that could be described in one sentence. That's terrifying." He came up with "Brazil's about dealing with reality."

Or "Brazil is a movie George Orwell." Or "It's about growing up." Paramount didn't give him the money.

Brazil puts Gilliam's earlier films, *Jabberwocky* and *Time Bandits*, into perspective. The same themes recur: the power of the imagination, the perversity of technology. Innocence, dreams, the perception of reality as a uncontrolled, demonic force where the only certainty is that whatever happens next it will be "something completely different." Even the same characters reappear, wearing different masks.

Michael Palin in *Jabberwocky*, the child Kevin in *Time Bandits* and now Jonathan Pryce, as San Lowry in *Brazil*, the same character in different times. "And guess who that is, folks?" Gilliam asks.

Lowry is really Kevin 15 years later, Gilliam says. "Now he's out in the real world and he's made certain choices about how he wants to lead his life. He's really the antithesis of the Peter Principle: he's well beneath his capabilities, he's a loser, himself out at a little corner in the Ministry of Information where he can dream, where he can lord it over his boss. That's the bubble that eventually has to be burst. And he's a loser, a loser. And guess who that is, folks?" Gilliam asks.

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Terry Gilliam: Picture by Kenneth Saunders

Comedy is the passport to Terry Gilliam's bizarre inner world, but for some it's no laughing matter when they get there. Chris Goodwin reports on Gilliam's latest film, Brazil, and its director

A crazy way of life

he lies constantly about his films. "And that's a lie too," he adds helpfully. "It is a very black comedy. Gilliam says he deliberately uses the humour as a bait for the audience. It intrigues him to see how far a director can go with making people laugh and yet still disturb them. It's not easy to trust a director who is so unrepentantly manipulative. "I use comedy as a way of getting people to go on the ride. A lot of people resent going on those rides because they like to know where

they're going before they get there, and I have no intention of telling them."

"With *Time Bandits* — and I think it'll be even more true of *Brazil* — we found that a lot of older people, more rational people, who wanted a very clearly constructed universe, had a very hard time with the film. It frightened them."

Gilliam found directing a painful experience at first and plainly doesn't count his partnership with Terry Jones on *Monty Python* and the *Holy Grail* a success. "I was

always used to working with bits of paper. I didn't really know how to deal with people." The rest of the Python team showed no respect for his talents as a director because they knew he wasn't one. It was only when working with people like Mar Wall and John Le Mesurier on *Jabberwocky*, that he began to enjoy it "because they actually believed that I was a director so I didn't have to cable them at all."

He also believes that the actors he works with have grown to trust him not to

ruin their performances through bad editing and even claims that in *Brazil* the editing has helped to make a bad actor look good. "I won't tell you who, but it's not Jonathan Pryce."

Nor, one presumes, Robert De Niro, who came to the film through Arnon Milchan, producer of *King of Comedy* and *Once Upon a Time in America*. De Niro is hard to recognise in *Brazil*. He plays an uncomplicated, unheroic hero, and his face is always covered by something — a baliseva or giant, eye-

distorting, welding glasses. "I love the idea of getting an international superstar and putting a bag over his head," Gilliam giggles.

He seems to be always on the edge of hysteria. On the wall there's a print of a painting by Richard Dadd, the Victorian fantasist who murdered his father and was confined in Bethlem Royal Hospital for the rest of his life. Gilliam's desk is cluttered with numerous bits of paper animated by strange cavoring creatures, weird objects, and apparently impossible buildings in *Brazil* he's created a complete imaginary world.

"I get viscerally excited when I start imagining things," he says. "It's a cheap drug, my imagination, using it is one of my ways of dealing with reality, because reality is so complex and uncontrollable."

With *Brazil* it becomes apparent how personal Gilliam's films are. The main characters are people who are constantly shocked by the dreadful things that happen to them. Innocent abroad, it's as if Gilliam is trying to say to the audience "Look, this is what happens to me, this is the way life attacks me, see if you like it any better." And the audience has to suffer the same maelstrom of uncontrollable events, sweetened with a touch of course.

But Gilliam knows he can't go on feigning innocence. Through his films he's realised the power his imagination has to manipulate people, and his next film will be something completely different. Loosely based on the tales of Baron von Munchausen, it's outrageous yarns of solitary and adventures. It will be set in a city under siege, "really grim and awful, people starving, people dying of wounds and all sorts of terrible diseases, and this guy's wandering through, this fellow of tales as he seems to be completely useless."

"But gradually his lies begin to inspire them, they begin to believe them, they need them. They're so distracted from their wounds and diseases that they actually start to do things they don't believe they can do, to the point where they see through his illusions. Another moral tale," he chuckles.

A special screening of *Brazil* will precede Terry Gilliam's lecture at the National Theatre on Sunday, February 3.

TELEVISION

Hugh Hebert

The New Pacific

SOURCES close to the television screen say that *Micronesia* is the strategic key to the western Pacific. Those further away can't see it all, or think it's series of fly blows on the vast map. Watching *The New Pacific* (BBC-2) you discovered it really consists of small islands like Yap and Saipan and Guam that are mostly covered by the sea. American and Japanese visitors looking for the bones of their ancestors.

Very important, the Pacific: its waters wash the shores of countries with a third of the world's population and most of its heavy combat, and they all seem to have got the idea that they have something in common, that there is a kind of Pacific destiny. That, anyway, was the impression given last week by the British warship programme in this series. The second, subtitled *Echoes of War*, looked more like the ghosts of Tojo and MacArthur marching side by side into the sunrise.

Tojo, executed as a war criminal, has been rehabilitated lately. General MacArthur, driven out of the western Pacific by the Japanese, promised "I will return." I think he promised it to Errol Flynn or John Wayne — and return he did. The Philippines alone now has 40,000 US servicemen plus another 20,000 when the Fleet is in. President Marcos hoovers up \$200 million a year in rents for the bases. The Pacific islands float on Coca Cola, and Micronesia, we're told, has the highest suicide rate in the world.

It was pretty high on Saipan in the summer 1944, when 30,000 Japanese were killed and many leapt from the cliffs to avoid shameful surrender as the Americans came back. The bodies of some of them were found searching for bones, building a cairn of them topped with a neat row of skulls for the postscript by Shinto belief will release their limbed souls.

In Japan itself, there may be big demonstrations against the visit of a nuclear-powered US carrier, presumably carrying nuclear weapons. But here they looked ragged and ineffectual against the grey bulk of the carrier, the ordered black lines of riot police, the Red Square-style parade of Japan's self-defence force which it is not allowed, under its constitution, to call an army or navy or air force, but which has 250,000 men at arms.

The series got into its stride this time, with a strong theme, but I had an uneasy feeling that some-

Japanese policy sounded as though they were read straight off a Pentagon hand-out, the references to possible flashpoints — Korea, the Thai-Kampuchean border — were sometimes perfunctory, sometimes puzzling. How much weight were we supposed to give the heavily underlined discovery of tunnels running from North Korea towards the South, under the border? I mean, tunnels?

COVENTRY

Gerald Lerner

Punch And Judy

ANYONE who (like me) failed to understand the seaside *Punch and Judy* as a child could scarcely have expected to understand the operatic *Punch and Judy* when Harrison Birtwistle's tragical comedy or musical tragedy made its debut gesture at the dying end of the 1980s. The virtue of the much welcomed Opera Factory version is not that it makes the work more comprehensible, but that it stops you worrying too much about the intellectual aspect.

For one thing, it knocks some of the pretentious stuffing out of Stephen Pruslin's libretto. For another, and more important, it makes a direct physical link between what you see on the stage and what you hear in the pit. That in itself is interesting enough, but it goes beyond enough for anyone with reach of the arts council tour (to Manchester, Bracknell and Bristol) to have a look at it.

The achievement is all the more admirable in that David Freeman has had to coach his singers in more than the usual operatic techniques. As they pursue their violent ends in his children's playground set — on the climbing frame, the seesaw, the swing, and down the slide — they perform some impressive acrobatics.

Since it is also a very tricky score, it is remarkable that they can sing it so well in these circumstances. In fact, it is not the acrobatics which get in their way but the orchestra. It could be different elsewhere, but in the Arts Centre at Warwick University which has the advantage of a pit, not many of the words emerge unscathed from their conflict with the instrumentalists of the Kodály Ensemble.

Neither they nor the musical conductor, Howard Williams, is to blame. Birtwistle's sound world is a peculiarly tough one, particularly in the early stages of the piece, and even those voices with the muscular development of Omar Elrahman's *Punch* or Graham Titus's *Choragos* find themselves up against it.

But be patient. The score

major set pieces, like Judy's lament with oboe d'amore (beautifully sung by Hilary Western), *Punch's* serenade with alto flute and viola; or *Pretty Polly's* wailing cry of "Marie Angel." There are also some fascinating details — like an eerie little duet for cello and bass or the sliding and whispering of violins round a 3-note viola solo that, though the ear might flinch from time to time, it never actually gives up.

HAMPSTEAD

Michael Billington

The Power Of The Dog

IT is fascinating to contrast Howard Barker's latest stage play, *The Power of the Dog* at Hampstead Theatre, with his recent radio play, *Scenes From an Execution*. Radio's implicit demand for a coherent narrative produced about a woman artist wrestling with a commission to paint the battle of Lepanto. The stage's relative freedom, however, allows Barker to indulge his appetite for political surrealism and the result is an intriguing but unconfused play about the obnoxiousity of authoritarianism.

We realise we are in for something strange in the first (and briefest) scene. Stalin meets Churchill in the Kremlin and to the ribald comments of a Scots comic who enjoys the licence of a Shakespearean fool, the two leaders carve up the European continent in a parody of the Yalta Conference. All the play's essential themes are here: the arrogance of power, the celebration of war, the isolation of leaders from everyday reality (the one thing Stalin yearns for is to meet a woman by accident on a train). But, having played so many of his cards, Mr Barker allows the action to develop into a series of nightmarish fragments of war: set mainly on the Polish plains, the hollowing scenes concern the adventures of a fugitive Hungarian model and a photographer who, in the course of seeking a picture of the love of a lieutenant from the Soviet Army's 72nd Motorised Division.

Despite the existence of explicit Brechtian scene-descriptions (*The Soldiers Fictions*), it is not always easy to see what point Mr Barker is making. But, as he intercuts between the cold tyranny of Stalin in the Kremlin and the jagged reality of Poland at the war's end, I take it he is saying something about the divorce between power and experience. Stalin struts and frets and concerns himself with the role of the artist (shades of Master Class) and his own impact on history; mean-

while, graves are dug and individuals try to exercise the spirit of the Party with Macbeth-like incantations.

But although Mr Barker creates an epic-theatre feel (and looking his title from the *Palms*) defends the individual human spirit against the Stalin-juggernaut, his play creates few memorable characters: even the most recognisable, which is the Hungarian refugee (played with tart, unsmiling power by Stephanie Fayerman), emerges as a modern-day Mother Courage. And time and again I found myself wishing that Mr Barker could ally his undoubted flair for sharp, raw, poetic dialogue with a narrative that propelled one forward from scene to scene. He can do it on radio so why not on the stage?

Undeniably Kenny Ireland's Joint Stock production creates an epic-theatre feel with minimal resources; and among the many good players involved are Philip McGough as a bullshy, brutishly whimsical Stalin, Hugh Fraser as the love-shaken Lieutenant and Peter Sproule as a jutting-jawed Churchill paying tribute to the Red Army and "the robust Ivan." But I found before me without biting deep into my consciousness, as I kept wishing that Mr Barker could find, as in *Scenes From an Execution*, a story that could harness his exceptional visionary talent.

FESTIVAL HALL

Edward Seckerson

Sinopoli/Philharmonia

THE Fifth Symphonies of Schubert and Mahler make a programme of almost perfect musical equilibrium, the one a natural precursor to the other, with sunnier pages of Mahler's most schizophrenic symphony serving to remind us just how much he in fact inherited of Schubert's lyrical grace and charm.

Perhaps that's what I missed most in these performances from Giuseppe Sinopoli. His Schubert — efficient, alert, not insensitive, but really rather anonymous — resolutely refused to smile. It just doesn't pay, for instance, to take the first movement allegro marking as its word, unless you can create an illusion of relaxation at the brisker pace as Sinopoli did not. That delicately turned first subject failed to ease the heart as it must, and no end of refinement from exquisitely bleached Philharmonia woodwinds could disguise for me the lack of inner warmth.

Turning to Mahler, I was immediately struck by Sinopoli's acute understanding of the sound-world. The darker side of the composer's nature was here vividly pro-

pressive martial percussion, sour woodwinds and tellingly exposed details such as low-register trumpets and baleful cello glissandi all contributing strongly to the impact.

Similarly the second movement, "Stormy, with utmost vehemence," reads Mahler's direction and again the assault on the senses, the hysteria of it all, was entirely apt — whiplash strings and brass snapping on its every heavy accent. What Mahler would have given for a first trumpet of John Wallace's calibre!

Thereafter, however, light begins to permeate the fabric of the work and somehow Sinopoli communicates fully the spiritual change of heart. The problematical scherzo sounded problematical, its sudden reveries failing to engender that wonderful sense of half-remembered poetry, while the celebrated adagio struck me as over nurtured, strangely chill. As for the finale, it raucously brought the house down. But was it really joyous? Or merely a desperate, last-minute wait for the elation, but it never came.

ST JOHN'S

Hugo Cole

Pay/Sinfonietta

LONDON'S belated discovery of György Kurtág was one of the most exciting musical happenings of 1981, and owed much to Adrienne Csengery's marvellous interpretation of the Messages of Trousova, brief songs of despairing love, with a chamber ensemble centred around the cimbalom. The same singer was at St John's on Friday with another group of songs by Rimma Dalos, again dealing with despairing love, the one a natural precursor to the other, with sunnier pages of Mahler's most schizophrenic symphony serving to remind us just how much he in fact inherited of Schubert's lyrical grace and charm.

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places her very much in the foreground of the picture. Yet it is the odd and unexpected instrumentation — as much as the impassioned declaration of the singer (rather the two in counterpoint) that gives the work its special character. High cantabile phrases on double bass sound almost like parody of singer, or violin. The discreetly used cimbalom is never as subtle as in Mahler's ensemble, but glides the sounds like pale winter sunshine.

A wonderfully eloquent performance with perfectly controlled legato from Miss Csengery was closely supported by Nona Lefkova, Robin McGee and Christopher Bradley. The second half brought what was, surprisingly, the first complete public performance of *Mechas Maw's* Life Studies for 15 solo strings, a work composed by the British composer in 1975. In fact, there are few passages of spectacular virtuosity, interest lying mainly in the constant permutations of ensemble, and in Maw's ability to let go the score at that ravishing sounds, result.

There is more relatively simple and homophonic music here than in some of the earlier orchestral works. Study 5, built round a swinging pizzicato sole for cimbalo, has some well placed to provide contrast and relief from the serious mood of earlier movements. Maw saves the longest and most rapturous melody for the last, Study 8, a song of love, though one of the movements is not to fact as for every performance.

Anthony Pay conducted a serene low-key performance perfectly modulated to this resonant building, with admirable and unselfish playing from the Sinfonietta virtuosi, and a few expressive solos well taken.

The programme note for Ligeti's Trio for horn, violin and piano was rather witty and too ingenious in its mention of the valve horn as a combination of several natural horns (what else are the valves for?), while the music was too evanescent to rouse much enthusiasm.

The civilised tone of voice is engaging, but the composer is mostly satisfied with the spinning of fine words, avoiding all definite or emotive statements.

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WEEKEND

SPORT

Cresta crown prince

By John Samuel



British and best? ... James Sunley biggest challenge to the Swiss in 20 years.

THE CLASSIC RACES

FROM TOP	FROM JUNCTION
The Brabazon Trophy	The Curzon Cup
The Grand National	The Heston Gold Cup
The Morgan Cup	

Shuttlecock victim ... it's really a safety valve.

how. On Wednesday February 12, just before the Grand National I'd cracked a runner and I was slow. I thought, 'Amazing. I'd knocked one and a half seconds off my personal best. The next week it was hard and cold. They were making the Sandy Gall film, which I suppose helped for the atmosphere. It all added to the pressure, specially waiting for the bloody helicopter. Anyway, the day before the race it was, I fell straight out. Inevitably.'

In the race itself Franco Ganser won, but only by 0.51 seconds from Sunley. Next came the Sachs Burton, an event where a rider counts two out of three times. Sunley was suddenly in with the course record—52.44. Ganser came roaring back with 51.75, still a record, but Sunley had hit four 52s running, three times a record. 'It's going to be a little different this year', he said. 'Last time I didn't have anything to prove. Now the pressure is on. The run is different every year. There are a lot of very good Swiss. But if I had to put my finger on any one thing I've got now I'd say it's confidence. I'll be really waiting on the knives.'

Much has changed on the Cresta. 'I've even seen changes in the three years I've known it closely', said Sunley. 'For one thing, it isn't for the rich any more. You're quite a few Brits back and they're not just the wealthy. Anyone can turn up and ride. You've just got to show a bit of form on and off the course. Talk to a few people. Turn up, when you're supposed to and don't mind waiting around a bit.'

Toboggans no longer have sliding seats. Riders wear skintight suits and shoes without rakes. There are new positions on the toboggan—the Kamikaze and the Grasshopper. But still you must never complain if you're out your sack and into the straw at Shuttlecock corner inside 30 seconds. The 130 degree corner, the most famous on the course, is to quote Sunley, 'only a safety valve.'

'Cresta riding is really like a motor-way. Your nose is four inches off the ice, maybe 80 or 90 mph. But you're looking 40 yards ahead, not out of the side windows. If you can't see Shuttlecock then you won't make the bends lower down where it does matter. You're in good hands.'

There have been only four fatalities in a hundred years. One of those was when a man left a board on the run. Another time there was a goat on the run. Then a horse. It was immediately made an honorary member. British eccentricity dies hard in the heart of Alpine Europe.

Matthew Engel on the cricket writer's India on page 18. Patrick Barclay's Soccer Diary on page 14.

ONE HUNDRED years from the days when four mad dogs of Englishmen and an equally crazy Australian created the Cresta Run by trudging up and down a snowy hillside at St Moritz in hand-ged feet, another mad dog, disguised as a London surveyor, in the next few weeks hurries down the world's most famous ice slick with a simple aim: 'I want to put an Englishman back on the Cresta map.'

James Sunley, 23, a couple of years down from Oxford, left his slide-rule in his Stratton Street office last weekend for six weeks of adventure on the Cresta. His particular target is the most prestigious of the five Cresta Classics, the Grand National, a fortnight today. No Briton has won it since RAF test pilot Colin Mitchell in 1955. Its reclamation would be no less than a cricket triumph in India.

The Cresta has a unique aura and mystique, and an imperial past to compare with New Delhi's British visitors, mostly tubercular and asthmatic invalids, discovered in St Moritz 'a little jewel in the snow' in the 1860s. It was the Cresta, though, that established a worldwide winter sport reputation not simply for St Moritz but for Switzerland.

Davos and St Moritz in the early years vied for tobogganing honours. The Swiss at that point only saw the toboggan as useful transport for the postman, or to amuse the children. Robert Louis Stevenson was among the first to discover the joys of tobogganing in Davos. The British in St Moritz, accustomed to racing down the village street, responded by building their own run, only to lose their first team event to the Davosers.

The entire Swiss population (about 250) turned out, but did not know whether to be sad or sorry. 'The whole village seemed to sense that something rather special had been started', Roger Gibbs, the President today of the St Moritz Tobogganing Club, remarks in his delightful booklet, *The Cresta Run 1888-1988*.

The Cresta today is not so far different from the original. Simply, it is a steep chute down a steep gully through 10 banked corners. It is a 'safety valve', as it were, for the village of Celerina. It has two starting points, Junction and Top, the former for the early part of the season, and Top, which brings a 'drawn' breath to the stomachs of the hardest riders, when the season grows brilliant and hard in late January and February.

Quickly the run drew aristocrats and their ladies. The Honourable Francis Curzon, brother of the illustrious George Nathaniel, who took off for the Engadine to heal

a weak spot in his left lung, included in his travelling essentials quills, ink pot, penwiper, WC paper, cork-screw and wine bottle cork. For the next 20 years, using his essentials in no particular order, he was effectively viceroy of the Cresta.

It was an aristocratic image which Lord Brabazon of Tara helped maintain. As the Americans moved in—the Heaton brothers, Harry Hays Morgan, Billy Fiske, later to die in the Battle of Britain—Brabazon stiffly objected to an American proposal for an international championship. 'The Cresta is unique', let us not invent rivals.

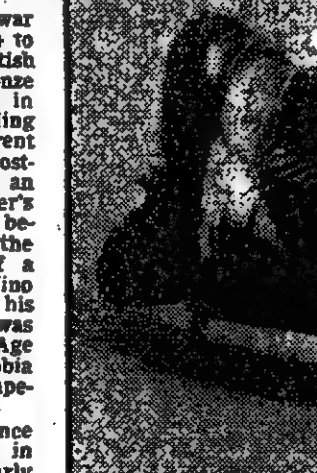
Women, at one time joyful riders of the run, were banished supposedly for medical reasons after one competitor died of breast cancer. The Cresta and bob runs were built annually each side of the Celerina road. Both attracted the rich and the glamorous, but the Cresta to many was the purest of sports—dangerous like a

beautiful woman, according to Brabazon, 'but with this cynical difference. To love her once is to love her always.'

The immediate postwar years saw the Swiss begin to inherit the run. The British won an Olympic bronze through John Crammond in 1948 but even the 10-shilling subscription was a deterrent in those impoverished post-war years. Nino Bibbia, an Italian who kept a grocer's shop in the main street, became the Cardinal of the Cresta. The first hint of a sharp frost and Nino slammed the shutters on his lettuce and carrots and was down breaking records. Age is still no deterrent. Bibbia in his sixties won a competition last season.

The British influence waned on the Run if not in its administration. The early post-war Services successes, by Mitchell in particular, were overtaken by a Swiss professional bred bankers and lawyers up from Zurich. The V form regulations of

the Sixties and Seventies meant a dwindling British presence on the sun-drikked terrace of the Kulm Hotel, traditionally the gathering



place after the morning's run. The classic trophies now have the names of Bruno Bischoffberger, Poldi Brechold, Franco Ganser.

Twice, a young British Army officer, Jonathan Woodall, went close in the Grand National, once losing by four-hundredths of a second, another time by five-hundredths, in the aggregate of three runs. Ganser now has won three of the last four Grand Nationals. At last, though, an Englishman has come forward to break the massed Swiss ranks of the top 20.

Young James Sunley, encouraged by his father John, of the construction family, a modestly good performer, had his first ride at the age of 17 five years ago. 'It was a pretty inconspicuous start. I managed to break a wrist.' He took a couple of truant weeks from Oxford, where he was reading geography at Oriel, and got himself a £15 fine. 'The vice-provost congratulated me on my work and for doing something for my country. It wasn't really fair. For one thing I was an amateur and in any case I was riding for myself.' His first ride lives in his

memory as with everyone who has launched himself down the Cresta's icy throat. 'I'd never even driven a car, only a bike. There was no sensation of speed, or being in control of speed. I didn't know how to swear. But there was all this graffiti streaming out of my mouth. I couldn't believe it. If Sunley were now it is by the people who control the run.'

His degree course finished he made straight for the Cresta last season. Lt Colonel making Willoughby, a retired Church officer, grey at the temples in a style Ealing Studios sought to echo for decades, took him on as an administrative assistant in a control room much like a temporary RAF tower in World War II. Essentially it meant 133 rides last season, 50 from Junction and 53 from Top.

Oversteering from Top he fell eight times. 'I was a bit of a ball-up, but I had very much to learn but I knew I'd find it some-

of my opponents.' Nevertheless the feeling that at times he 'held up the line' led to his being dropped several times by the England selectors. He won 54 caps compared to Finney's 78 and 17 of those were pre-war.

Yet he shared some of England's best moments in the years around the war, scoring three times at White Hart Lane in 1937 when Czechoslovakia were beaten 5-4 and forming a devastating right-wing partnership with Mortensen in 1947 and 1948. England routed Portugal 10-0 in Lisbon and their 4-0 defeat of Italy in Turin remains one of the outstanding wins by an English team abroad.

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Unselfish on the field Matthews was sometimes accused of being acquisitive off it and it has to be said that when invited to appear in testimonials or charity matches Stan did not come cheap. But in view of what he would have earned today such criticism seems carping especially when it is remembered that the largest audiences that will ever watch League football in England and was still only earning £12 a week.

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'Mr Soccer' at 70—sorcerer supreme of a lost era

AT FIRST glance the idol of a generation of schoolboys who kicked around the back streets and wasteland of football before, during and just after the second world war hardly looked the part.

He ran with a slight stoop, the legs were bowed and his shorts flapped around his knees like two white ensigns. Yet for the lad who gained momentary possession of a tennis ball or, if he was among the lucky ones, the soft, wet puddling of a rain-soaked football, this figure represented soccer's ideal.

Up and down the country small boys shuffled up to their opponents, stopped, showed them the ball and tried to feint one way while intending to dart away in the other. More often than not they fell over their own feet but if it worked once then, in the imagination at least, another Stanley Matthews had been born.

In six days' time Sir Stanley Matthews will celebrate his seventieth birthday. He now lives in Burlington, Canada in an apartment overlooking Lake Ontario and the occasion will be marked by a banquet at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto. A number of Matthews' contemporaries have been invited including his partner in the Blackpool attack Stan Mortensen.

Sir Stanley Matthews will celebrate his 70th birthday in Canada next Friday. David Lacey examines the Matthews mystique

another four back at Stoke where, with the acrimony of his departure in 1947 forgotten, he helped his old club regain their place in the First Division.

To understand what Matthews meant to the game it has to be appreciated that he played in an age when to a great many of his admirers he was just a name they read in the newspapers or heard on the radio. On odd occasions tantalising glimpses of his skills might be seen in a black-and-white newscast but even the telefilm of his greatest moment, the 1953 FA Cup Final, looks pretty crude now.

There was a mystique about Matthews which would not be possible today when his best moments would be played back and analysed over and over again. To watch Matthews you queued for three hours and spent another two waiting on the terraces for the kick-off. When he had the ball you stood on tip-toe and craned your neck to catch the delicious moment when the full-back was sent the wrong way.

As an individual only George Best has emulated the drawing power of Matthews on English grounds and then to not quite the same extent. In the 1950-51 season Blackpool finished third in the First Division and the average attendance at their compact Bloomfield Road stadium was 29,238. Away from home they were watched by crowds averaging 45,948 which put them ahead

of Tottenham, the push-and-run champions that season, and Arsenal, who had an aura about them then that Manchester United possess now.

As Geoffrey Green of the Times wrote: 'Matthews was the Pied Piper supreme of his day. He belonged to the nation as a whole. He was Britain's most valuable and treasured export and woe betide any full-back who resorted to cruel, rough or unethical means to stop him. At once such a player became the enemy of the people, even though he might prove to be the left-back of the home side.'

The popular idea of a winger has not changed that much from Alex Jackson to Tom Finney, Bryan Douglas, Peter Thompson, Terry Paine and, latterly, Steve Coppell and John Barnes. There have been wide variations—Finney was a regular goal-scorer, Coppell doubled as an inside forward or even a wing-half and at Watford Graham Taylor wants Barnes to be involved in every aspect of the game—but these are still players who can go wide, take on defenders and get their crosses in.

What made Matthews unique was his ability to stop the play while he awaited an opponent. Geoffrey Green has described him as 'the greatest dribbler, the most superb ball-manipulator in the whole history of the game'—a pre-Best, pre-Pele sentiment but no exaggeration at the time. 'There has always seemed to be a conspiracy between the ball and Matthews's feet. He would meet at some given point of time,' Green added.

J. P. W. Mallalieu, a Labour MP and erudite writer on football, asked: 'Have you ever watched a dragonfly, how it hovers in one spot with its wings vibrating and then apparently without changing gear, darts away at top speed? Many times I have

seen Matthews, the ball as ever at his feet, hemmed in by a watchful opponent. There has been no room to manoeuvre. He has been cornered, his whole body vibrating, while his opponent watched. Suddenly Matthews has made his dart to the right and his opponent has darted with him. It is only seconds later that we and his opponent see that Matthews has in fact darted to the left.'

Matthews himself explained his art more succinctly: 'If I can show the man tackling me the ball by taking it close to him and then whip it past him, causing him to lunge, when he thinks he has cornered me, I will soon have caused an inferiority complex from which my opponent will not easily recover. A successful dribbler must develop a superiority complex in his own mind.'

Over-indulgence in his dribbling skills was one of the most consistent criticisms that Matthews encountered, and the accusation that he always wanted the ball passed to his feet and was not prepared to run and

feth let alone tackle back to win it. Charles Buchan, the former Sunderland, Arsenal and England forward who wrote for the News Chronicle for many years and later founded Buchan's Football Monthly, admitted Matthews but had to admit that 'he often delays the final pass until the goalmouth is covered. Though it is lovely to watch it does not bring goals.'

Matthews always denied playing to the gallery. 'I was dribbling to get on top of the defence,' he protested, 'hoping to destroy the confidence

of my opponents.' Nevertheless the feeling that at times he 'held up the line' led to his being dropped several times by the England selectors. He won 54 caps compared to Finney's 78 and 17 of those were pre-war.

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THE WIZARD AT WORK ... Matthews leaves Redpath and Cox of Scotland trailing in 1951

RUGBY UNION
David Frost
Barnes
back for
Bristol

STUART BARNES, the England stand-off half, yesterday passed a fitness test on his troublesome ankle and will play for Bristol today in their John Player Cup third round tie at Leicester. Peter Pollock, the Bristol wing forward and captain, has also been passed fit after his groin strain.

This is the outstanding tie of the round because both clubs have been playing well this season and because their Cup records over the last six years make them two of the top three or four clubs in the country. Leicester won the Cup in 1979, 1980, and 1981 and were in the final again in 1983.

Leicester, who approached their best and most fluent form against Bedford last weekend, will today be without Barry Evans, who has to attend his graduation ceremony at Derby. Kevin Williams switches from the left to the right wing, allowing Rory Underwood, the England wing, to return on the left. Bristol's only doubt concerns Nigel Popham, the lock, whose wife is expecting their first child. He will travel with Bristol but is prepared to return home at a moment's notice.

Rob Andrew, due to play at stand-off half for England against France at Twickenham next weekend, will have a fitness test this morning on his bruised thigh and groin strain before deciding whether to play for Nottingham in their home tie against Northampton. Brian Moore, Nottingham's hooker, yesterday passed a fitness test on his sprained ankle. Andrew is not fit in Simon Hodgkinson will move from full-back to stand-off, and Martin Drane will return at full-back.

The weather has forced the postponement of three of the most interesting ties of the third round — Headingley v. London Welsh, West Hartlepool v. Moseley, and Wakefield v. Blackheath. The kick-off in the Liverpool v. London Scottish match has been brought forward to 10 o'clock. Wakefield have now arranged a match at Moseley for today.

Sale confidently expect their home tie against Aspinall to go ahead. They have had to make a late change because Rob Stevenson, their wing forward, is injured. His place goes to Niall Gaffney, formerly captain of Clontarf, who has played for Leicester but whose only previous game for Sale was in their second team.

Maurice Colclough, the former England and Lions lock, will be in Wasps' side for their home tie against Rosslyn Park, having recovered from a hand injury. Colclough will also play tomorrow in Wasps' Middlesex Cup match against Richmond at the Athletic Ground.

Richmond today have a Cup tie at Kingston, where Gloucester should win, as should Harlequins at home to Ealing and Bath at home to Bath. All the other ties look evenly balanced.

Today is also the date for the third round of the Schweppes' Cup in Wales. Here a junior club is bound to reach the last eight because of them. Rummy and Seven Sisters, meet this afternoon at Rummy.

John O'Driscoll, the Ireland and Lions wing forward, has recovered from pleurisy and plays his first game of the season for London Irish tomorrow at Sunbury against Marlborough. Rummy, Rummy, Rummy, will be at stand-off half for the Irish for the first time since breaking a hand in September.

Blackheath and London Welsh, whose Cup ties have been postponed, have agreed to meet tomorrow at the Rectory Field.

John Rodda
Bolder Budd
may match
Finch's best

ATHLETICS

Zola Budd's first competitive appearance on an indoor track went off without a hitch last night in the National Indoor Championship, sponsored by Pearl Assurance, at RAF Cosford.

A crowd of fewer than 2,000 saw something of Budd's power in the 1500 metres when she accelerated to the front with five of the 74 laps remaining and immediately began to build on her lead. She won in 4min 21sec, a modest time by any standards and over ten seconds slower than the fastest time ever recorded on the Cosford track.

It was a cautious run but she could hardly have had an easier initiation, for there were only five runners in her heat and three qualified for today's final.

She said afterwards that she felt perfectly comfortable, and there was no damage to her feet — she ran without shoes — and that she now had the confidence to go to the front today's final, so we might be in for a race.

She said that she felt that indoor racing was very little different from outdoors "but you tend to get confused with the laps".

She did not seem absolutely comfortable on the heels — although that was not her opinion — but when it comes to greater speed she may just have difficulty in cutting her stride. However there are unlikely to be any problems for her this afternoon, and, at the very least, she should be within

David Lacey on today's fourth round FA Cup ties
Spurs hope for lucky seven

SOCCER

THIS IS the time of the season when ambitions become clearer, and the FA Cup fourth round ties being played this weekend should accelerate the process.

The situation is made more intriguing by Liverpool's present low key. The Milk Cup is leaving Anfield after four years and unless Liverpool can mount a League offensive, even if they are by their standards, the championship seems likely to follow.

Already the suggestion has been made that Joe Fagan's team will make up for their losses by winning the FA Cup, rather than retaining the European Cup. The records do not support this theory since the FA Cup has only gone to Anfield twice in the whole history of the competition.

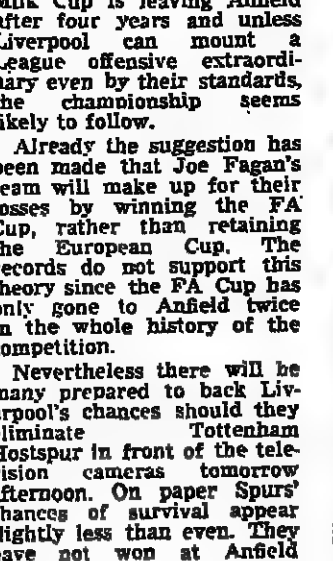
Nevertheless there will be many prepared to back Liverpool's chances should they eliminate Tottenham Hotspur in front of the television cameras tomorrow afternoon. On paper Spurs' chances of survival appear slightly less than even. They have not won at Anfield since 1912 and have been beaten on each of their last six visits.

Against that, Tottenham know that if they can force a replay the odds will swing towards them, because already this season Liverpool have lost twice at White Hart Lane. Moreover Spurs have been defeated only once in their last 18 matches and with Clemence playing so well in goal should prove especially obdurate tomorrow. Not that their defence can afford to repeat the series of errors that kept Charlton's hopes alive for most of Wednesday's third round replay.

Spurs expect to be unchanged but Liverpool could be without Lawrenson because of a hamstring injury, and have Wark under treatment for a damaged ankle. They have already lost Walsh with back trouble.

An even sharper set of perspectives could emerge at midweek, when Tottenham and Manchester United again encounter Coventry City, who won 1-0 on the same ground in the League a fortnight ago. Two home defeats have numbed United's championship aspirations; they are lying third in the First Division but now eight points behind the leaders.

Before long they may find



FRAUGHT AT THE BACK: John Giffan

places Mike Duxbury in Manchester United's defence against Coventry



places Mike Duxbury in Manchester United's defence against Coventry



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themselves sharing Liverpool's aims in cup competitions at home and abroad. Certainly they can ill-afford another defeat against Coventry although injuries continue to dog Ron Atkinson's side.

Bryan Robson is still out with a shoulder injury and Bailey, Manchester United's England Under-21 goalkeeper, misses the match with a dislocated finger. Pears, who kept goal in the previous match against Coventry, when Bailey was down with flu, now appears in his first FA Cup tie.

Atkinson has changed the defence around yet again, dropping Duxbury and recalling Moran and Hogg, who have both been kept out for two months by injuries at centre-back. Giffan will play at right-back with McGrath moving to midfield — McQueen is unfit — and while United will be encouraged by the return of Olsen, who has missed five matches with a thigh strain, Stapleton was sent home yesterday suffering from flu symptoms.

Coventry have dropped Bennett and Bowman, the Scottish Under-21 international who cost them £175,000 from Hearts, replac-

ing them in midfield with Hibbitt and Gynn.

The last time Liverpool lay fallow for a season was in 1970-71, when Arsenal won the League and FA Cup. If the double is to be performed for only the third time this century then Everton would seem to have the right credentials in terms of durability, consistency and the ability to raise their game when necessary.

Having been knocked out of the Milk Cup at home by Grimsby, Everton will approach today's tie against Doncaster with particular care. The FA Cup holders are unchanged and Doncaster have Harle, the scorer of their winning goal against Queens' Park Rangers in the third round, fit after an ankle injury.

After their resounding 7-2 victory against Hereford in Tuesday's replay, Highbury, Arsenal will be confident about this afternoon's game at York, who are weakened by the loss of Nicholson from midfield with a stress fracture in a leg. Arsenal should have too much all-round strength and pace for the Third Division team, but their defence is still prone to unforced errors

and they may find themselves having to score more than once to avoid another replay.

Nottingham Forest and Sheffield Wednesday are the sort of teams who could get to the final — indeed Wednesday have equally serious ambitions in the Milk Cup — and both should get through today. Birtles, absent for nine months with a back injury, may get on for Forest against Wimbledon and Wednesday have included Mark Smith, who has missed five matches, in their squad for the visit of Oldham.

Watford, last season's runners-up, face a bad finish to a disappointing week. Knocked out of the Milk Cup by Sunderland on Wednesday, they now have to meet Grimsby at Blundell Park without Barnes and Kelly in their attack and with Taylor facing a late fitness test before he can play in midfield.

Orient, conquerors of West Bromwich Albion in the third round, take on Southampton at St. Mary's Road without Cadette. The teenage scorer of their winning goal in that match, his knee injury has not responded to treatment.

Lloyd lifts title

SQUASH RACKETS

David Lloyd, tipped to become Britain's first world champion, gave another impressive performance last night to win the Blue Stratos British open Under-23 title at Marlow.

In a surprisingly one-sided final, the 19-year-old from Birkenhead, outplayed his opponent, Frederick Johnson 9-0, 9-1, 9-1 in just 41 minutes. He then gave much of the credit for his success to Britain's last great player, Jonah Barrington.

"Jonah has helped me change my attitude since we got together about 18 months ago," he said, after becoming the first Englishman to win the five year title. "He has given me the will to win and now I have self motivation. Even at 9.00 am in the morning, like every other time I go on court, I pretend I am playing for the British Open title."

Lloyd, already ranked fourth in England, was superior to Johnson in every department of the game.

Maurice Hamilton
Monte Carlo field down

MOTOR SPORT

The status of the Monte Carlo Rally, which starts this morning, has been badly affected by recent political arguments. The late decision to go ahead with the event has produced the smallest entry in recent years; only 135 competitors, about 100 less than usual, are expected to leave from six points in Europe before racing at St. Etienne in France tomorrow to begin the rally proper.

The route to the overnight halt in Monte Carlo on Wednesday will run through 23 countries, including Ireland and the French Alps, and although the intransigence of the French sporting authority has played a part in undermining the Automobile Club of Monaco's bid to ensure testing conditions in the true tradition of the event.

Snow and ice will favour four-wheel drive, in which case the opening round of the 1985 World Championship will be fought between Audi and Peugeot, two highly motivated and professional teams with two vastly different cars.

The Audi Sport team beats the Peugeot 205 Turbo on power, but the little French car is easier to drive. Indeed, the overwhelming success of the 205 in the last three rounds of the championship in 1984 means that Peugeot had no alternative but to announce a full-scale assault on the championship this year.

Peugeot have added two more cars to their usual entry for Ari Vatanen and Britain's driving team, Stig Blomqvist, the 1984 World Champion, partners Walter Rohrl, who has won the event four times in the past five years.

A thaw will suit the more nimble Peugeot, although a return to dry tarmac will bring the two-wheel-drive Lancia of Henri Toivonen into contention, particularly on the Col de Turin on Thursday evening.

Robert Armstrong
Sexton lines up double U-21 date

England have arranged two friendly international matches for their Under-21 team to avoid a gap of five months between competitive fixtures. Dave Sexton's side will play Israel in Tel Aviv on February 27 and the Republic of Ireland at Portlough on April 26. These will be followed by a visit to Romania in April for a match in the UEFA Under-21 competition.

Wales could stage their World Cup qualifying game against Scotland at Cardiff Arms Park on September 11, following discussions with the Welsh Rugby Union. The national stadium has a 25,500 capacity, compared with 42,000 at Ninian Park where international soccer matches in the capital are normally held.

Meanwhile, Chelsea's Milk Cup quarter-final against Sheffield Wednesday will take place on Monday whatever the result of their FA Cup replay at Wigan today. The FA originally insisted that their competition must take precedence over the FA Cup, but a last-minute agreement to play Wigan on Thursday if another replay proves necessary.

Telford, the last remaining one-league club in the FA Cup, are certain to be in Monday's draw for the fifth round following the postponement of their fourth round tie at Darlington. The match has been rearranged for next Tuesday.

Gary Owen is included in the West Bromwich squad for the first time in 12 months for today's First Division game against QPR at The Hawthorns. Owen, who broke his leg at West Ham last January, is included in a squad of 13 along with Mickey Forsyth, a centre forward who replaced the suspended Alistair Robertson.

Frank Barlow, the Scunthorpe manager, has denied reports of a rift with Ian Botham who is a non-contract player with the Fourth Division club. Barlow said that

Charles Burgess finds Edgbaston in the grip of HA Cup fever
Much tingling at the grass roots

HOCKEY

THIS WEEKEND is Cup time not only in football, where pro faces pro, but in hockey, where barrister and surveyor take on teacher and student before sitting down for chips and a pint or six.

In the amateur world of hockey tomorrow is the day of romance, the first national round of the Hockey Association when the minnows have a go.

To say that excitement is at fever pitch in the smart Birmingham suburb of Edgbaston would be an exaggeration, but down at the clubhouse Edgbaston Hockey Club the Cup is the only thing they are talking about.

In their centenary year, the club have reached the

national round for the first time. They will entertain Andover, the new and improved to swell from a couple of feet-stamping wives and girlfriends to well over 100 people.

Actually, it is not their own clubhouse, but they have an agreement with the Edgbaston Archery and Lawn Tennis Society and their pitch is a short drive away. Sixteen of them attempted to clear the pitch of snow last Sunday but made little headway except for the winger who attacked his own territory with gusto and care, producing after a couple of hours an immaculate 30-yard strip down one line 5ft wide.

The thaw negated his efforts, but he has already hoped Monday off work to recuperate from the celebrations or commiserations.

The Warwickshire champions, who are second in the

SOCCER DIARY

Patrick Barclay

God on Guards' side...

RANGERS diehards still reeling under last weekend's double blow while Joe Wallace at Aberdeen, the manager who had his hernia operation in a Catholic hospital, will not be amused to hear that the Vatican League season is under way.

Swiss Guards, who are tipped to mount a challenge to the champions, Police, beat Liberty 5-1 and thus lead the 12-team league on goal difference. The name Vatican Bank may still send a shudder down some spines, but not those of Osservatore Romano who beat them 6-3. It is now known whether the champions will seek a place in the European Cup, although with Wales reported to be demanding entry I suppose anything is possible.

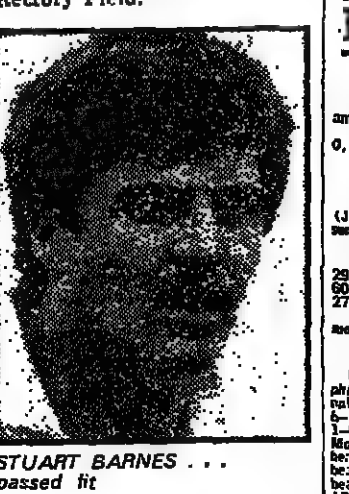
IN A WAY I was sorry that Fifa refused the United States application to stage the World Cup, especially after the Olympic soccer, which was so well supported. I am not sorry any more, not after watching Springtime with Superbowl on Channel 4 last Sunday night when the Hel-Brooks when the Americans are so adept at flourishing their shortcomings in matters of taste and sensitivity? Though the game itself was all right in its staccato way, what there was of it I found the stink of the tacky, smug, ingenuit occasion quite overpowering.

THE EVERTON versus Sheffield Wednesday match must have been better than I thought. Colin Fookes of Warrington plaintively asked Goodison programme-makers for help in finding his Union Jack, which "must have been pulled out from under my coat while I was watching the game. It's about the size of a single bed, eight feet long and three feet wide." Incidentally, any basketball players want to know where they can get an eight foot bed, would they please write direct to Colin?

FROM NEXT season the Scottish League will be re-titled the Fine Fare League as part of a sponsorship deal with the supermarket chain. The Football Association will be asked to conduct their business, but I will say this from now on it will be more difficult to convince ignorant Englishmen that the Scottish League should be taken seriously.

AS A CONTRIBUTION to the Stanley Matthews season, I propose to break an inviolable rule — again — and partially quote a poem. It's by Alan Ross. I've pinched it from the Poetry Magazine (Mainstream, 2588) and I don't think you'll ever read a better description of a footballer in motion, let alone an outside-right, than this:

Shyly, almost with deprecating courtesy, Stan is off. He smirks at the air and finds it good beneath him, he draws. Defenders towards him, the ball a bait. They refuse like poisoned chocolate, retreating, till he seizes it. To a walk, inviting the tackle, inciting it. At last, unrefusable, dashing the ball at the instep. He is charged — and stiffening so slowly. It is rarely perceptible, he executes with a sequence. Of the hips, a twist more suggestive than apparent, that lastly disdainful nose toreros term a Verónica — it's enough. Only emptiness following him, pursuing some scent. Of his own, he weaves in towards, not away from, fresh tacklers. Who, turning about to gain time, are by him harried, pursued not pursuers. Now gathers speed, nursing the ball as he cruises. Eyes judging distance, noting the gaps, the spaces. Vital for colleagues to move to, slouping a trace. As from Vivaldi to Didi, pausing, and leisurely, leisurely, snags. To the left's sprint his centre on hips. His hands, observing the goalkeeper spring, heads rising calmly to the ball's curse. Just as it's plucked from them; and dispassionately. Back to his mark he trots, whistling through clouds of lips. Anyone want to buy a second-hand video?



STUART BARNES passed fit

BADMINTON: Two famous partnerships have reached the point of no return as England seek the formula to stop the Chinese winning the World Gold Medal in the women's doubles again this season, writes Richard Jago.

Gillian Gilks and Karen Beckman, who hold the title are almost certain to be separated. That means Vera and Gill Clark will need to do well in the semi-finals in Tokyo today. The future of England's other leading partnership, Martin Dew and Steve Baddeley, is also in question, despite their efforts in reaching the men's doubles semi-finals against the top seeds.

RESULTS

Soccer	
FOURTH DIVISION	Hull City v. Northampton
CRICKET	
FIFTH WOMEN'S TEST	
SOUTH AFRICA v. India	
TENNIS	
US INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS	
SQUASH RACKETS	
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION	
BASKETBALL	

Pat Rowley
Drawn into familiarity

By a quirk of fate, the draw for tomorrow's first round (last 32) of the Hockey Association Cup bears a strong resemblance to last year's, which was full of drama. East Grinstead, the holders, again face one of the favourites; Southgate must return to the Midlands; Slough and Hounslow travel to Truman League sides again.

A year ago Hounslow beat Bognor 6-2 to go into the last 16, but they will not find East Grinstead so lax in defence. The Sussex club enjoy scapling the better London League sides, but Hounslow, winners of the Cup in its inaugural year of 1972, are developing

Janet Ruff
Immediate effect

With a sense of relief after the bad weather, the Women's Territorial Tournament opened on the artificial surface at Coldham Common, Cambridge, in perfect conditions, with the North beating the East 2-0 and the West overcoming the South by the same score.

The North put their miserable midweek performance behind them with their attack showing promising development, but the defence still left much to be desired. In contrast the East's attack was disjointed.

The North scored in the 30th minute through Maggie Souvay with a precise push

Southgate's return to Truman League

Southgate, who scraped into last season's second round at Olton's expense, visit Stone, the new Midlands champions, whose international forward, Sherwan, scored five goals for the Police on Wednesday. Duthie, McGinn and probably Craig are unavailable for Southgate.

Clubs like Edgbaston exist as much for the social side as for the playing side

Clubs like Edgbaston exist as much for the social side as for the playing side, but for the first time tomorrow's game is a deadly serious affair and training has been stepped up for the past few weeks. Whatever happens tomorrow there is no doubt they will all have a good time.

... ..



rs' time.

Dear Maggie ... don't blame it on blacks, women or the lack of National Service



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

DEAR MRS THATCHER, I was particularly annoyed by some of your recent excuses for your record on unemployment, and thought that, as with the NUM, you might prefer to have my ideas on paper. Your remarks during the interview with Sir Alastair Burnet on Thames TV Eye this Thursday were not only demonstrably wrong, but also deeply divisive and objectionable.

I am sure that any economist in your confidence would also disagree with what you said — and if you don't believe me please ask Sir Terence Burns or Sir Alan Walters. On this issue economists speak with a surprisingly united voice.

My objection is to your point about why Britain's unemployment is higher than the Continent's. You seemed to blame this entirely on the fact that we have not got conscription, and that we have not sent back our immigrants, unlike West Germany. With these propositions, you fell squarely into what Mr Samuel Brittan calls the "lump of labour fallacy", and you must also have created a good deal of private hurt, unwittingly perhaps, amongst the many immigrants who were probably watching.

The "lump of labour fallacy" is wrong because it assumes that there are a fixed number of jobs to be done, so that if one person takes a job, another person must lose one. In reality, of

course, increases in the population from whatever source do not only increase the supply of labour but also increase the demand for it. There are more mouths to feed and more spending to be done — and more jobs too.

If the "lump of labour fallacy" were true, the increase in the labour force in Britain from 124 million in 1981 to 264 million in 1981 would have been accompanied by a 14 million rise in the number of unemployed. Fortunately, it wasn't. Nor, of course, did living standards drop: in fact, they rose dramatically.

If it was a lack of conscription which was responsible for our high unemployment, how is it that the same lack of conscription in the sixties and early seventies allowed us lower unemployment than other countries which had it? And are you really suggesting that the 100 Gujarati Mr Patel who are now reported to be millionaires would, if they or their forebears had been ex-

cluded from Britain, have been replaced by Mr Smiths instead? Or would we merely have fewer millionaires, employing fewer people?

It is indicative, surely, that the country with the fastest falling unemployment is the United States, whose population increased by more than 10 per cent over the last decade in part because of Mexican "wetbacks" crossing the Rio Grande.

Let me put this point in even more perspicuous terms. As you may know, one of the main reasons why the British labour force has expanded for a century, despite setting European records for emigration in almost every decade, is the large influx of women into new jobs.

Since the Second World War alone, women have accounted for 34 million of the 44 million increase in the working population and you are, of course, a prominent example of the trend (though not, as my wife says, always a happy one). It is quite possible that

unemployment would fall disproportionately if you were to vanish from the labour force, but this would have absolutely nothing to do with the direct impact of your retirement. For years many other women have taken up jobs without increasing unemployment and have left them without reducing it. And living standards are a good deal higher for their effort.

Let me make one final point before turning to something else. If you are still unconvinced that the growth of the working population is unrelated to the level of unemployment, let me point out that even if you are, it will not be safe politically to admit that you are intensifying unemployment deliberately in order to reduce wages. Thus you will have to describe what is happening to every conceivable cause except the true one. This is one piece of Keynes' advice you seem to be following to the letter.

In "The Economic Consequences of Mr Churchill", Keynes wrote that: "We ought to warn you that it will not be safe politically to admit that you are intensifying unemployment deliberately in order to reduce wages. Thus you will have to describe what is happening to every conceivable cause except the true one. This is one piece of Keynes' advice you seem to be following to the letter."

The real reason why we have so many unemployed, as you must well know, is because you — and, to be fair, other premiers too — are dead set against using any more civilised measure to control inflation.

Of course, I understand your reluctance to admit to what you are really doing. Following your great interest in the 1944 White Paper committing governments to full employment, you have also probably looked up Lord Keynes' excellent advice to a well-known Chancellor in 1951.

In "The Economic Consequences of Mr Churchill", Keynes wrote that: "We ought to warn you that it will not be safe politically to admit that you are intensifying unemployment deliberately in order to reduce wages. Thus you will have to describe what is happening to every conceivable cause except the true one. This is one piece of Keynes' advice you seem to be following to the letter."

less, excuses and excuses. By effectively blaming immigrants, you encourage every odious racist in the country to think and argue the same. Such a use of the "lump of labour fallacy" will also, of course, encourage the all-too-many British Luddites who for similar reasons believe that new technology destroys jobs.

There isn't a given lump of labour, and nor is there a given lump of output to be divided up amongst those who want to produce it. Unemployment is not due to women, or blacks or, to our lack of conscription.

You were also on pretty thin ice in your reply to Sir Alastair Burnet about investment being lower than anyone else's. True, private investment is now at a record by British standards, as is Gross Domestic Product and earnings (though I thought that boast a bit rich on your part given your Chancellor's views about high real wages causing unemployment). However, the claim is not as impressive as it sounds. The

British economy has grown since the Second World War in every year except six — a third of them under your stewardship — so you will notice that you are not alone among past Prime Ministers in being able to claim such records.

Indeed, the whole thrust of your case in 1979 was that Britain, despite its record-breaking performance by historical standards, was nevertheless falling behind internationally. That relative decline has sadly not diminished certainly managed to flummox your recently knighted Sir Alastair, but surely you have now had enough Treasury tutorials to take on someone with a bit more bite? On the other hand, I suppose one doesn't knight people for bite.

With best wishes. If I think of any less unpleasant excuses for unemployment I'll let you know. Perhaps you could get Sir Terence or Sir Alan working on it. Yours sincerely,

Christopher Huhne

Manufacturers deficit grows sharply despite fall in sterling

Miners knock trade surplus

By Christopher Huhne, Economics Editor

Britain's trade in goods and services with the rest of the world showed a surplus of £193 million in December which helped push the current account surplus for the whole of 1984 up to £196 million, Department of Trade and Industry estimates showed yesterday.

The deficit in manufactured trade which first appeared in 1983 grew to £2,921 million in 1984 from £2,347 million the previous year as imports rose sharply and our own industrial companies only just held on to their market share in rapidly expanding world markets, despite previous falls in the pound.

The tiny surplus on the current account, which adds earnings in services such as tourism and shipping to goods, was

a marked decline from a surplus of £2,294 million in 1983 though it was in line with the Treasury's revised prediction in November of broad balance. Officials estimate that the deficit on trade in goods was increased by £2,780 million by higher oil and coal imports as a result of the miners' strike, though the symptoms of an underlying deterioration in the performance of most sectors except oil are also clear.

The 1984 current account surplus was the worst performance since 1978, when the balance showed a deficit of £255 million. The deficit on imports and exports of goods alone was £2,138 million, the worst since 1974 which was also hit by a miners' strike.

The detail in the figures is hardly reassuring for those who argue that Britain will have considerable problems in

filling the hole in our trade as the 1985 production and exports begin to run down.

Despite the miners' impact, which was probably responsible for the 42 per cent increase in fuel imports, the surplus on trade in services rose to £2,875 in 1984 from £2,266 million last year thus helping to disguise the further worsening in the manufacturing balance.

The export volume of manufactured goods rose 14 per cent but this was merely compensated for a poor performance in the first part of the year to give volume growth in 1984 as a whole of 94 per cent, almost exactly in line with the OECD's estimate of the growth of our export markets. This was despite a fall in the value of sterling of 8 per cent the previous year.

On the import side, the volume of manufactures, which

should not have been distorted by the miners' strike, similarly rose by 94 per cent though the composition of the increase leaves some hope that this is not entirely due to the consumer binge which increased the volume of finished manufactures by 113 per cent. Capital equipment import volume was also up 12 per cent.

The figures for December show that exports of goods (including oil) reached a new high of £6,907 million while imports reached their second highest figure of £6,907 million.

Total exports in 1984 were £80,625 million and total imports were £81,730 million. Oil exports were £14, 974 million and oil imports (of heavier grades than the North Sea's) were £7,707 million. Manufactured exports were £46,508 million and imports £50,429 million.

Opec 'news' hits pound

By Peter Rodgers and John Hooper

THE extreme sensitivity of sterling to oil news was illustrated last night when the pound plunged at one point to \$1.1650 because of apparently inconclusive remarks made by Sheikh Yamani about the Opec meeting in Geneva on Monday.

Sterling recovered little from its low point but was still trading below its London close of \$1.1132, which was 0.58 cents down on the night before. Dealers said it was reacting violently in very thin markets.

The pound also reached a new all time low in its bid against the dollar, falling to 70.6 per cent of its 1976 value.

Quite why the markets should have reacted as they did was a mystery. Sheikh Yamani told reporters that the Opec conference would aim to leave the average price of its crude oils as it was "so as to keep the present benchmark unchanged."

The Saudi Oil Minister was speaking on his arrival in Algeria and was widely expected to be closely intended to soothe the feelings of those Opec member nations, such as Algeria, who are opposed to cuts in the organisation's benchmark or marker price.

He added that the price gap between the higher priced light grades and the lower priced heavy ones was too wide and reiterated his view that it would have to be narrowed by a cut in the price of light grades rather than a rise in that of heavy grades. Such a realignment could, in theory, cause problems for the competitiveness of Britain's own, mainly light, crudes. But the oil which competes most directly with that from the North Sea, Nigerian Light, is already selling at a hefty discount.

Gains in London against continental currencies such as the German mark were lost by the finish, with the German mark falling a penny up, and rising further in New York.

The Stock Market was encouraged earlier by the signs of easing interest rates and the new prospect that the Government would routinely beat the miners to show sharp rises in leading shares. Stores and financial companies, including clearing banks, moved at the close and the FT 30 index, which had been climbing steadily all day, went back past the 1,000 mark to close 11.1 higher at 1002.8.

According to the official Algerian news agency, Sheikh Yamani was bearing a message for Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid from King Fahd.

Algeria, in common with Nigeria, refused to sanction the compromise on oil prices announced at the conference which would up shortly before the New Year. Under the compromise, the price of extra light crudes, such as those produced by Algeria and Nigeria, was to be trimmed by 25 cents, while the heavy and medium grades were increased by 50 and 25 cents respectively.

Prestwick reels as CAA rejects Highland Express

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Plans to revitalise Scotland's Prestwick airport have been dealt a severe blow after a decision from the Civil Aviation Authority to reject proposals for the launch of a new out-price transatlantic airline, Highland Express.

The CAA has turned down applications by Highland Express to begin flights from Prestwick to New York and Toronto in North America and Maastricht in Holland because it was not satisfied with the new airline's finances.

Highland Express responded last night by promising to seek a High Court judgment on Tuesday that the CAA has no powers to reject the airline's application on financial grounds.

Randolph Fields, head of Highland Express, and former

founder of cut-price rivals, Virgin Atlantic, says the company will challenge the CAA ruling on the grounds that the authority has misinterpreted aviation law.

Mr Fields, who claims the airline is backed by £40 million of finance, says there is "genuine" demand for flights from the Highlands and Islands. Other airlines threatened to withdraw from Prestwick if BMA transferred its operation and Transport Secretary Nicholas Ridley is considering its long term future.

The CAA recognised the airline's application, but the authority was not prepared to grant the license until Highland Express could assemble its financial backing. But Highland said it could not properly assemble the full backing without the CAA licence.

the Scottish lobby which has been pressing for extra traffic to be passed through Prestwick in order to safeguard the future of the airport.

Prestwick's future has been in serious doubt since British Midland Airways applied to switch its flights to Glasgow in a bid to link up with incoming flights from the Highlands and Islands. Other airlines threatened to withdraw from Prestwick if BMA transferred its operation and Transport Secretary Nicholas Ridley is considering its long term future.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Dunlop plan by BTR

BTR, which has the power to block the financial reconstruction of Dunlop, has begun negotiations with the ailing rubber group's banks to win their support for its alternative £33 million bid for the company. One of the leading banks described the situation as "still very fluid" last night. BTR's offer document for Dunlop is expected toward the end of next week.

MR KEITH Wells, head of Lucas Electrical, has abruptly left parent company Lucas Industries after working for it 25 years, for the past two in the crucial post. Mr Marcus Beresford, general manager of Lucas Electrical and Electronic Systems, the company designed to take Lucas further into up-market vehicle components, also left this week.

ONE OF the two men chiefly responsible for the recent revival in fortunes of Belfast shipbuilders Harland and Wolff died yesterday at the age of 42 after a short illness. Sales and marketing director Mr Ken Ruddock played a large part in the sales drive which has landed work worth £150 million within the past 12 months, leading to the current work in hand of more than £225 million.

BPS American subsidiary, Sohio, yesterday reported fourth quarter earnings of \$390 million — 10 per cent down on the same period last year. The company's net income for the year was \$1.49 billion compared with \$1.51 billion in 1983. But Sohio's chairman, Alton Whitehouse, said that when exceptional items were excluded from the accounts, fourth quarter earnings for 1984 were 22 per cent lower and the full year's earnings 9 per cent down.

National Savings rate raised

By Margaret Dibben, Money Editor

A new, higher rate, National Savings certificate will be available shortly together with increased interest rates paid on the other National Savings accounts.

The new 30th issue National Savings certificate will pay an average 8.85 per cent tax free over five years of interest with 8 per cent on the current issue. The 29th will be available until the new certificates come on sale on February 13.

From today the Yearly Plan, already paying a high rate of return, will give an overall tax free average of 9.25 per cent over five years, 9.23 per cent more than the old rate.

The next increase takes effect from February 1 when the General Extension Rate, the rate of interest paid on earlier

certificates which have already matured, goes from 8.85 per cent to 9 per cent. Three days later the 19th issue certificate, the most successful ever for National Savings, reaches its 25th anniversary, putting at risk several hundred thousand pounds.

National Savings money if it were all withdrawn. The higher General Extension Rate and the new 30th issue are designed to keep 19th issue money with the Department now that the rival banks and building societies have improved, although with 8.75 per cent tax paid available from most societies on money which is only tied up for seven days, only the extension rate looks attractive.

A week later on February 8 the investment account receives the biggest boost with a full 1 per cent added to make 12.25 per cent before tax.

On March 13, after the statutory six weeks' notice, period, the income bonds and deposit bonds will gain 0.75 per cent to 12.75 per cent gross.

Holder of maturing 19th issue certificates who want to receive the extension rate need take no action but if they want to switch into the 30th issue they will have to cash in and rebuy.

The basic terms for the 30th issue National Savings certificate will be the same as for its predecessor: the maximum investment for each person is £5,000 being sold in £25 units. After five years, one unit will be repaid at £38.21. The interest rate after the first year is 6.75 per cent.

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Putting on a new complexion

By Tony May

THE ever-changing Sangera group is taking on a new complexion with the acquisition of US cosmetics company called Paxon for up to £20 million. It is stepping down to the US and raising £27.6 million.

Paxon is a private company which has grown from a profit in 1980 of \$80,000 to one of \$2.4 million last year with 25.7 million forecast.

Sangera's colourful major shareholder (48 per cent) the Bermuda-based "ex-fringe" banker, Tom Whyte has put the deal together over the past year and will become deputy chairman responsible for US operations.

Sangera has been reducing its losses for some time but will now be able to offset some £1.25 million of tax losses against Paxon's results over the coming years. The deal will cost £15 million initially with the rest linked to profits.

To fund the deal Sangera's chairman John Briggs says the group is "structuring the deal to give the maximum benefit for the 3,000 loyal shareholders who have stayed with Sangera over the last three years."

This means a scrip issue of one-for-two on the shares — currently suspended at 45p. The new issue will be followed by a rights issue asking them to stump up £18.4 million. The terms are nine-for-eight at 33p while another £9.2 million will be raised through a loan stock issue.

Names may move against managers

By Mary Brasier

A steering committee representing names on the 895 shares of Lloyd's which faces losses of £20 million meets on Monday to decide whether to take legal action against the syndicate's managers Spicer & White.

The names, who include sporting stars Mark Cox and Virginia Wade, were warned earlier this month that they may have to find at least £40,000 each in May to fund the syndicate's mounting total of claims. Members writing an average £20,000 of business have already paid out £20,000 to meet losses incurred through bad underwriting.

Writes against the managing agency Spicer & White whose ultimate owners are the Willis

Names may move against managers

Faber broking group were prepared last year but shelved. But since the publication of a new report detailing how 895 losses have accelerated from an estimated £13 million to £20 million, there have been renewed calls for action.

Some names feel there is also a case against Lloyd's itself, which has so far stood back from the affair, saying the dispute is between members of the syndicate and Spicer & White. But it is now being argued that Lloyd's should have monitored the rise in syndicate 895's premium income and stepped in to prevent overwriting. Members of the syndicate claim that the protection of Lloyd's policy holders is at risk because of the market authorities' oversight.

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Powell falls 7p while Hanson puts on 10p

By Our Financial Staff

While the board of Powell Duffryn was stoutly maintaining the bid was turning in its favour and against the Hanson Trust bid, Lord Hanson said that his offer would lapse on Tuesday if he did not win by then. The market reacted by sending the Hanson share price, Powell's shares fell 7p to 431p on the day and Hanson's rose 10p to 343p valuing his offer at 457p a share — 22p above the Powell market value.

The Hanson camp was quick to exploit this with a letter to shareholders which also argued that nine weeks ago the Powell board was clearly expecting profits for the full year to be "lower".

Powell meanwhile argues that Hanson's "bidding it" bid is "looking increasingly cheap against all the fundamentals".

Buy-out hits snags

By Michael Smith

Shipyard workers at Yarrow on the Clyde and Hall Russell in Aberdeen are being urged to make up their minds quickly on proposals for a £30 million employee buy-out.

Barclays Bank, which has put together the £30 million package, say the deal will be withdrawn unless they make up their minds by next Tuesday.

A statement said that 98 per cent of the 750 employees at Aberdeen had voted in favour of the plan, but union opposi-

tion to the privatisation of State-owned British Shipbuilders resulted in only 20 per cent of Yarrow workers voting on the proposals. However 88 per cent backed the plan.

Barclays said that 27 Yarrow workers abstained from voting in a last chance ballot on 22 January 23. The Hall Russell buy out would not be ahead of time. Barclays said: "The alternative is that Yarrow will go to the highest commercial bid. There is no chance of an employee buy-out for Hall Russell alone."

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Investors' Circle
G 261

Coming to the rescue: will the insurance companies listen to the clues for help? (feature by Don McPhee)

You may be worried about burst pipes, loose tiles, and gale-blown chimneys. But the biggest headache for the insurance companies is subsidence. Margaret Dibben reports that more claims mean higher premiums while David Worsfold discovers new ways to pay old debts

Catalogue of disasters

A THAW is a relief after the freeze, but it does show up the cracks. When the water pipes unfreeze, the floods begin to flow. And just as you shoot off a claim to your insurance company, you will quite likely find that the rates have gone up. There is a general move towards increasing premiums by 10p for every £1,000 insured.

However severe this winter might have felt to you, the insurance companies are not ready to panic yet. They have become resigned to the changing weather patterns which mean that bad winters happen more often.

The worst problem for them has been subsidence, which is accounting for between a third and a half of all claims in a year, when the 1983/84 winter storms had already created a high level of damage.

Most insurance companies say it is still too early to assess the burst pipe and flooding levels but the Big Star says that the initial signs foretell an horrific amount of damage, particularly in the West Country. Unusually this

year, Yorkshire, Wales and the North-east have escaped the worst of the weather.

Insurance companies have had to pay out increasingly more over the past few years. One reason is that policyholders are more claims conscious than ever before and are claiming for more small items than they used to. An older generation would have taken false pride in not having to make an insurance claim.

The British Insurance Association says that in 1979 one in every ten policies produced a claim; but in 1983 this had fallen to one in every seven policies — an increase of 30 per cent.

As well as a larger number of claims, the winter storms of 1983 and 1984 cost a lot of money. The average winter weather claim is around £200 or £250 and, in the last ten years, problems with subsidence have caused many of them.

Subsidence became a popular topic after the dry summer of 1976 when many householders discovered the perils of clay soil drying out rapidly

and then swelling when the rains eventually came. Last year the dry summer again created serious subsidence problems.

But not all the subsidence faults showed up at once and policyholders are still claiming for damage and cracks caused as long ago as 1976. Buildings that may have got away with small cracks in 1976, could have shown more serious cracking in 1984. Not every crack can be blamed on subsidence and, if you feel tempted to try it, the insurance company will want to check the building before settling any large claim.

There is not much you can do to safeguard your property against subsidence — but you can against burst pipes. Most important, if your water has frozen, do not try to unfreeze it quickly with a blow torch. You stand a better chance of avoiding a cracked pipe if you thaw the pipes slowly, perhaps with a fan heater.

While the insurance company is happy for you to have emergency work done immediately before they sanction the claim, to prevent

even more deterioration, this does not extend to consequential repairs. For these you must get estimates.

So, even though the high cost of subsidence repair and damage caused by the recent sharp spell do not alone worry the insurers, the cost of buildings insurance is going up this winter.

Legal & General, Royal Insurance, Sun Alliance and Commercial Union are raising their premiums from February 1. While insurance on house contents is highly competitive and rates vary from company to company, the picture is just the opposite with buildings insurance. The experience of all the insurers, they claim, is very similar and so are their rates. The rate for insuring your building at present is £1.50 for every £1,000 of cover. The new rate is £1.60.

Eagle Star is putting up its charges from April 1 but the Guardian Royal Exchange, Prudential, Norwich Union and General Accident have no immediate plans to charge more although, now that their

competitors have moved, they are thinking about it.

The Zurich insurance company alone charges just £1.20 per £1,000 of insurance cover. They do this by imposing this rate only on properties unlikely to suffer either subsidence or flooding; they charge £1.50 for those that do. Consequently nearly all the property on their books is less accident prone and the business is, unlike the competition, profitable. They are, however, looking at their charges now that increases are taking place.

And more bad news is on the way. There is a high chance that building insurance rates will go up again in 1985.

IF YOU pay your building insurance through a building society, you will pay at the same rate as if you went direct. The only difference might be that some societies impose a management charge if you choose not to use one of their panels of insurers.

But, at the moment, there is a bit of a row brewing between insurance com-

panies and building societies. Some societies are claiming to take credit for the fact that building insurance rates went up by only 10p per £1,000; if it hadn't been for us using our muscle they say, there would have been a bigger increase, probably to 17.5 per cent.

Other societies have not yet agreed to impose the increase and are still arguing the point with each separate insurance company.

What is upsetting them is that some insurance companies have suggested the societies might take just a little less in commission. At present the building society gets 40 per cent of what you pay in premiums; insurance companies would rather pay 30 per cent.

This business is worth millions of pounds each year to the building societies.

In a few years' time, when building societies become more commercial operations, insurance broking is going to be one of the most popular activities. They do not want to see their commission eroded.

Margaret Dibben

Lindsay Cook on disasters and how to guard against them

Playing safe with gas

A RECORD number of suspected gas leaks has been reported in the wake of the Fulby explosion with service engineers turning out to find and repair leaks or to locate the cause of the smell, be it rotting cabbage or cat.

But who pays? In most cases it's British Gas, but the cost of parts and labour can be charged to the customer in some circumstances.

Any leaks on the street side of the meter are down to British Gas. But repairs on the house side of the meter, which take longer than half an hour to complete and cost more than £150 in parts and materials, are charged to the householder. British Gas say that most leaks require little in the way of materials and are often completed within 30 minutes.

When they are not, the labour charge is worked out at an hourly rate, which varies in different regions. At North Thames, the minimum charge is £14.25 and this would be made if a repair took five minutes more than the free time and up to half an hour extra. At a minimum the cost is £18.00 and the first hour costs £21.85. In addition, parts have to be paid for.

Some elderly and disabled people can have free safety checks of their gas appliances, if they are worried about them, but they must live alone to qualify. Those over 65 living alone, and registered handicapped living alone, can apply to their local showrooms for a free safety check. A couple of pensioners in their eighties living together would not qualify.

British Gas recommends that central heating boilers and gas fires should be serviced once a year and other appliances should be checked every two years. They offer a series of service agreements, ranging from the basic one-star servicing of a gas fire and back boiler, (£20.70) to the three-star fully comprehensive insurance for a domestic central heating system. This costs £52.03 and covers the annual service, and any repair or replacement needed.

In between is the two-star agreement at £28.01, which is for central heating systems and covers servicing and adjustment; there are no labour charges for repairs but replacement parts have to be paid for. There is also a two-star plus, which covers parts and labour for a central heating boiler and associated controls, but not for the rest of the system.

British Gas are very safety conscious and have spent some £1,250 million replacing mains pipes and the services to three and a half million homes, completely fulfilling the recommendations of the King report, made after a series of explosions in 1977.

Sniffer vans are also employed during the night patrolling the streets, all over the country, to detect gas escaping. The work has to be done at night because during the day their sensitive apparatus can react to car fumes.

All British Gas service engineers are trained to City and Guilds standard and attend refresher courses once a year. They also take part in an annual safety competition. It was another gas explosion in 1970 — Roman Point — which led to the setting up of the Confederation for the Registration of Gas Installers (CORGI). The national director of this voluntary body, Mr George Banks, would like to see their powers extended so that all people installing gas appliances need a licence, as they do in America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and France.

Laws covering gas safety say that only "competent" people should install or service appliances and a maximum fine of £2,000 can be imposed where this law is broken, but Mr Banks complains that this law catches up with the work they undertake only after an explosion or a death.

CORGI has 10,000 companies registered and in addition to checking the work of anyone who applies to join the confederation, aims to check a sample of their work every year.



The number of people showing an interest in gas safety has increased by 30 per cent over the last two years.

This might be more often if the confederation receives complaints from customers. About a dozen companies are expelled from the register each year for bad workmanship and a further 300 are expelled for failing to maintain their public liability cover of £500,000.

"We check this each year and there are always some that fail to renew their insurance cover," said Mr Banks. "We want the public to tell us about any problems with our companies, but our concern is that while gas leaks and explosions are obviously concerning consumers at present, it has 16 million customers and experienced just 68 explosions in the year ended April 1984, a considerable reduction since the recommendations of the King report had been implemented."

Lists of CORGI gas fitters are available at all gas showrooms, libraries, stores selling gas appliances and Citizens Advice Bureaux.

British Gas point out that while gas leaks and explosions are obviously concerning consumers at present, it has 16 million customers and experienced just 68 explosions in the year ended April 1984, a considerable reduction since the recommendations of the King report had been implemented.

How to take cover and pay for it once a month

RARE indeed are genuine innovations in the world of general insurance. Rareer still are innovations that emerge from the notoriously conservative offices of Lloyd's.

Remarkably, one far-reaching innovation started with a firm of Lloyd's brokers unknown outside the insurance industry — Nelson Hurst and Marsh. Their idea was to devise a monthly insurance policy covering a wide range of personal insurance requirements, up to 10 different areas which had no renewal date. Those of you who already pay some of your insurance premiums in

monthly instalments might be tempted to say "So what?" This policy, however, really is different.

With a monthly instalment plan, you get your annual renewal notice for, say, your house contents insurance, see it has jumped up again to £150 and throw your hands up in horror. You might shop around only to find that the only companies offering cheap policies are ones that you have never heard of. You then turn to the leaflet that came with the renewal notice and find that you can pay by monthly instalments and, trying your best to ignore

the 5 per cent or 6 per cent charge (equivalent to about 14 per cent annually), you sign up to pay by instalment. Next year you go through the whole thing again.

The monthly policy from Nelson Hurst and Marsh — now followed by a similar policy from National Employers Mutual Insurance — is just that: insurance bought and paid for on a monthly basis. No large annual renewal premium, no charge for paying monthly and added flexibility to vary your cover month by month.

The ten sections of the policy called Select and Pro-

tect are Buildings, Contents, Legal Liabilities, Accidental Death, Total Disablement, Small Craft, Caravans, Horses and Ponies, Legal Expenses and Motor. The only requirement of the policy in terms of the type of cover taken is that each policy must include one of the first two sections.

Policyholders must also be householders with current bank accounts because cover for all the areas selected is paid for in one monthly premium by variable direct debit. The NEM plan has fewer areas of cover, there is also a motor insurance-only monthly policy available

from Swinton Insurance, a chain of brokers based mainly in the North.

All insurances are insured at Lloyd's except the legal expenses cover for which Nelson, Hurst and Marsh went to specialist legal expenses insurers (LAS, now owned by Sun Alliance). Costs are competitive without being cheap and the cover offered is, on the whole, better than average.

The cover selected at the outset will continue until policyholders notify Nelson Hurst and Marsh, by telephone if they wish, that they wish to alter it. The new cover will apply from the date of the next monthly premium and the direct debit will be altered accordingly. When a premium for a section is to be increased, NEM will notify the policyholders that their direct debit will be changed and leave the onus on policyholders to contact NEM to say they wish to amend or cancel policies. Herein lies the major catch with the monthly premium concept: inertia.

One of the attractions of these policies to the insurance companies — and several major insurers are considering following NEM's lead — is that without a huge annual

premium to terrify them, clients will merely let the policy roll on hardly noticing the odd monthly increase, although with ten different insurances rolled into one contract it is possible that there could be an increase in ten months of the year.

This could turn out to be a problem, especially with only one or two currently on the market. Comparison between a monthly policy and a standard annual premium contract will not always be easy, especially if you take the extra charge for paying an annual policy by instalments into account.

While the idea of one insurance package has considerable appeal, it is quite possible that the price of one section might get out of line with the rest of the market and that clients would stick with the package because they like the cover they are getting under some of the other sections.

The monthly concept breathes convenience — and that has to be welcomed — but for many of us inclined to laziness in such matters it might also have hidden dangers.

David Worsfold

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CAPITAL FUND	APR 1980	+26.65% p.a.	
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WEEK-END MONEY

Joe Irving compares the likely profits to be had from a new collection of savings schemes devised by a growing number of insurance companies

Launch of the new five-year plan

WITH interest rates again on the up, other institutions face a hard time pricing savers away from building societies and National Savings.

Insurance companies are making their pitch with five-year plans. So far there are about ten regular savings schemes on the market, and more are undoubtedly on the way. Two which have surfaced since the turn of the year are from London and Manchester Assurance, curiously based in Exeter, and Cornhill Insurance Group in Guildford.

Other companies in the five-year savings time machine include Commercial Union, Scottish Widows, and the unit trust groups Save and Prosper and Target.

In concept, these schemes are very similar, including the length of time National Savings certificates must be held to reap the best return; it is the term investments must be held in small companies to qualify for tax relief under the Government's business expansion scheme; it marks the boundary of short-dated gilts; and it is a period over which unit trust managers like to measure performance.

Until last year, insurance actuaries thought in ten-year terms — the qualifying period for tax relief on life insurance premiums. In the 1984 budget they lost the tax plan, but are no longer shackled to a long-term qualifying period. Hence the spate of five-year plans.

The plans are regular premium life policies. As such, the returns are exempt from basic rate income tax, and there is no liability to capital gains tax either.

The returns depend on how well savings are managed. This is because they are invested in unit trusts, which in turn depend on the performance of their underlying investments.

As for choice of plan, therefore, you pay your money and hope for the best. It is not

For example, London and Manchester Assurance claims that monthly savings of £50 over five years in its Investment Trust Fund would have produced a final payout of £4,765 compared with £3,739 from a building society — net annual growth rates of 18.56 per cent and 8.74 per cent respectively. In a Save As You Earn National Savings contract the same money would have produced a return of £3,540 and in a high street bank £2,436.

The building society return is calculated on interest one per cent over the ordinary share rates over the period, and the return from the bank account 3½ per cent over base rates.

Alternatively, savings can be invested in a choice of five other funds, or a managed fund covering equities, fixed interest securities and property.

Other companies similarly offer a choice of funds. Cornhill musters eight plus a managed fund, and a Provincial Life unit, together with a managed fund, ranging from relatively safe investment for income in Government securities to high risk investment for capital growth in technology and companies hopelessly poised for recovery after a weak spell.

Usually punters are allowed to switch from one fund to another, but unless you are wise in the ways of stock market, you would be well advised to let the fund managers do the juggling by opting for their managed fund.

The table shows how the relevant funds have performed over the last five years, though the figures relate to a single premium investment, not continuous savings.

Your choice of plan may be limited. For instance, if you

can afford to save a maximum of £25 a month, you will be welcomed by London and Manchester, but not Provincial Life, which sets a minimum of £40, or Cornhill, which insists on £50.

Remember that your monthly outgoings are not fixed at the starting amount. It will be automatically increased by 10 per cent a year to keep up with inflation, as the companies put it. Considering that inflation has been running at only half that level, the margin itself seems to be somewhat inflated.

Another point to bear in mind when considering a regular commitment of this kind is that if you pull out within the first year you will get nothing back, and you will get only 66 per cent of your fund's value if you surrender the policy in the second year.

Beware, also, of assumed returns based on a high growth rates. These rates may well understate the company's best performing fund over a given period, but not some of the other funds. And there is good reason to believe, what with new Government policy, that the climate for investment institutions will not be so good in the future as it has been in the past.

To be fair, however, companies also err on the conservative side when projecting investment returns. Assuming a growth rate of only 7½ per cent, Cornhill estimates that £50 a month in its plan for five years will produce £4,015. This compares with Provincial's estimate for its plan of £3,900.

Growth rates of 10 per cent will produce £4,231 and £4,140. Higher assumed growth rates should be regarded with scepticism.

MANAGED FUNDS' PERFORMANCES

£1,000 invested for five years to January 1 1985, income reinvested

Companies with 5 year plans	
Oreocent	£2,571
Provincial	£2,545
Target	£2,357
Providence Capital	£2,145
Hill Samuel	£2,087
Cornhill	£2,085
Save & Prosper	£1,990
London & Manchester	£1,980
Top performers over the last 5 years	
Providence Life	£2,757
Schroder CCM Vanguard	£2,700
Lloyds Life-Charles Stanley	£2,617
Family Assurance 'A' Bond	£2,575
Average of all funds	£2,128

Source: Money Management

entirely a matter of pin-pricking. The funds in which your money is invested have track records, and although past performance is no guarantee for the future, it is a useful guide.

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Stockmarket Confidential (or SMC for short) is a rather unassuming looking sheet which is sent, by first class post, every Wednesday evening.

Despite its innocuous appearance it is eagerly read on Thursday morning by a handful of investors up and down the country.

Some of these investors will be professional stockbrokers, heads of industry and other leading financial experts. Between them they may control, literally, millions of pounds.

Others will be smaller private investors sometimes with as little as £500 or £1,000 with which to speculate on the Stockmarket.

Confidential has in common the desire to discover what is likely to happen on the stock market that coming week.

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In Stockmarket Confidential we make buying and selling recommendations, offer sound investment analysis and, most important of all, suggest one or more "Hot Tips" for the week.

If you haven't acted on our "Hot Tips" by Thursday lunchtime you've missed the boat — other SMC subscribers will have already pushed prices up.

You'll discover that very often the best investment opportunities are the "penny shares".

For instance, which rocketed from 12p to 50p in just 42 days... Bellair Cosmetics from 25p to £10.50... Dollands Photographic from 27p to £3.23... just three examples from a long list of recently successful "penny shares".

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BSC International	10p	20p	100%
C.H. Bailey	10p	30p	200%
Collins Stores	2.40p	4.35p	79%
Dea and Biddis	30p	80p	166%
Evans Estate	30p	107.5p	258%
Express Publishing	1.50p	2.00p	33%
Leak Bros	2.25p	7.25p	222%
Quest Automobile	30p	62p	106%
Westminster	1.10p	1.45p	29%
Country Properties	1.20p	4.20p	250%
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Steel Group	1.4p	2.0p	43%

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The managers plan to spread the new trust's portfolio broadly and to manage it actively. Initially, the portfolio is expected to be distributed: France 30%, Norway 25%, Germany 10%, Holland 10%, Sweden 5%, Switzerland 5%, Belgium 5%, others (including Spain, Denmark, Austria, Italy and Finland) 10%.

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offer to offer basis net income reinvested to 21/25

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

An initial charge of 5% on the assets (equivalent to 5% of the issue price) is made by the managers when units are issued. Out of the initial charge, managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries; rates available on request. The Trust Deed provides for an annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) on the value of the Trust, to be deducted from the gross income to cover administration costs.

Distributions of income will be paid on 10th December each year, net of basic rate tax. Contract notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within eight weeks of payment. To sell units, endorse your certificate and send it to the managers. Payment will normally be made within seven working days.

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The managers plan to spread the new trust's portfolio broadly and to manage it actively. Initially, the portfolio is expected to be distributed: France 30%, Norway 25%, Germany 10%, Holland 10%, Sweden 5%, Switzerland 5%, Belgium 5%, others (including Spain, Denmark, Austria, Italy and Finland) 10%.

Such companies often operate in technologically advanced industries and because of their size tend to be relatively free from external interference and to be able to continue to work on high profit margins. Elsewhere in the world, smaller companies have shown much greater than average growth — a fact clearly instanced by the long term

performance of Henderson American Smaller Companies Trust which has achieved 304% growth over the 6 years since its launch in 1978.

At Henderson we believe the time is right to invest in the smaller companies of Europe and we are now launching a new unit trust to enable you to do just that.

THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

A fundamental consequence of these changes is that the shares of many more small companies are now quoted on Europe's stock markets. And in several countries local equivalents of our Unlisted Securities Market have been developed specifically to help smaller companies come to the market.

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performance of Henderson American Smaller Companies Trust which has achieved 304% growth over the 6 years since its launch in 1978.

DO YOU QUALIFY? Up to £50,000 free EXTRA PROTECTION FOR YOUR FAMILY

At last — a vigorous plan specially designed to give free extra cover to healthy people.

HERE'S HOW YOU BENEFIT

If you qualify, you can get immediate cover of up to £142,000 — for just pennies a day (see table below). So you get astonishingly high protection for very little cost.

But that's just the start, because your protection actually GROWS each year, until it DOUBLES by the ninth year!

That means extra peace of mind for you and your family.

HOW CAN I QUALIFY?

To offer such high cover for such low cost, we have to set strict entry qualifications. If you can answer 'No' to the first five questions opposite, and you are between 18 and 55 and your height and weight are satisfactory, you could qualify — so apply today. This is an opportunity you shouldn't miss.

FIVE WINNING FEATURES

1. At least 50% extra cover FREE — if you qualify. If you are healthy and don't smoke, you are likely to live longer. So why shouldn't you get a better deal when it comes to life insurance? The answer is — you do! By restricting the offer to non-smokers in good health, we can offer MUCH BETTER terms — and that means up to £50,000 extra cover protection for your family — FREE!

2. Your protection grows — to meet your growing needs. Each year, your guaranteed protection grows by 12½% of the initial amount — for only 10p extra on your initial premium. So your policy actually gives you better and better value for money each year! Of course, your FREE extra cover grows too, till it doubles by the ninth year.

3. You can cash back for more. Each Dynamic Cover Plan lasts for nine years — and at the end of each year, or on your 56th birthday, if earlier, guaranteed is payable but you have the guaranteed right to take out another Plan — or whatever your health at the time. You can choose your level of protection, right up to the final amount on your previous Plan.

4. Changes if you need change. Whenever you wish, you can convert your Plan to a savings policy, a policy to provide a family income, even a policy to protect your mortgage.

5. Tax-free benefits. Under current legislation the Sum Assured on death will be paid completely free of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax.

questions and sign the declaration. Then post your application and cheque to: GRE (LIFE/CV/CP), FREEPOST, Ballium Road, Lytham St. Anne's, Lancashire FY8 4BR. No stamp is needed.

On acceptance, your policy will be posted to you along with a bank Direct Debit form, which is needed for your future monthly payments. You then have 15 days to examine your policy. If you are in any way dissatisfied, simply return your policy to GRE. It will be cancelled without any payment will be refunded. Immediately, The Guardian money-back guarantee.

Apply today! The sooner you start — the sooner your family is protected.

Answer these six questions to see if you qualify

The questions must be answered fully and to the best of your knowledge and belief. If you need to give further details please use a separate sheet of paper which you should also sign and date. Please be as specific as possible to save us having to refer back to you.

In answering questions (a) and (b) you can ignore common colds, influenza, minor injuries, negative mass X-ray, uncomplicated pregnancy and childhood ailments (except Rheumatic Fever).

Please answer these questions truthfully:

(a) Have you within the last five years had or are you under any form of medical supervision, care, treatment or specialist diet? YES NO

(b) Are you taking any medicine or drug or are you under any form of medical supervision, care, treatment or specialist diet? YES NO

(c) Do you participate in any sport or pastime generally considered to be dangerous, such as competitive motor sports, mountaineering, aviation (other than as a fare-paying passenger) or underwater activities? YES NO

(d) Have you smoked any cigarettes within the last 12 months? YES NO

(e) Have you any intention of smoking cigarettes in the future? YES NO

(f) What are your height and weight? _____

Guardian Assurance plc is authorised by the Financial Services Commission under the Financial Services Act 1986. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Guardian Assurance plc, a wholly owned subsidiary of Guardian Assurance plc, a wholly owned subsidiary of Guardian Assurance plc.

Your Doctor's Name _____

How long has the Doctor known you? _____ years? If less than six months, please provide the name and address of your previous Doctor.

DYNAMIC COVER PLAN FREE 15 DAY EXAMINATION APPLICATION FORM NO SALESMAN WILL CALL

To: GRE (LIFE/CV/CP), FREEPOST, Ballium Road, Lytham St. Anne's, Lancashire FY8 4BR. No stamp needed. Please tick your choice of initial monthly payment.

I endorse my choice of £6.00 £9.00 £12.00 £15.00

This is the initial Premium which increases each year by 10p in the pound (of the initial amount)

I endorse a cheque made payable to Guardian Assurance plc for my first month's payment, as indicated above.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____

Full forenames _____

Address _____

Date of birth _____

Occupation _____

I declare that I am signing this form as the person whose life is to be insured. I declare that to the best of my knowledge, all the above statements are true and complete in every particular and together with the statements which I have made by my being contracted to be insured by the Medical Examination shall be the basis of the contract between me and Guardian Assurance plc. I consent to Guardian seeking medical information from any doctor who at any time has attended me concerning anything which affects my physical or mental health or seeking information from any insurance office to which a proposal has been made for insurance on my life and I authorise the giving of such information.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please send a second application form for my spouse _____

My Doctor's/Agent's name is if applicable _____

Guardian Assurance plc, Registered Office: Royal Exchange, London EC3V 3LS. Registered in England No. 20621. Please cut along dashed line.

Unit Trust choice simplified

Most successful investors start with a clear idea of whether they want income or growth or a balance between the two. Individual unit trusts can meet each of these requirements, but the problem is knowing which to choose from over seven hundred unit trusts.

Before making an investment in a unit trust you should expect the managers to tell you how well it has performed over the long term. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective. New funds or funds which suffer a change of management are more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record.

We are currently offering three M&G Funds which satisfy the three requirements of income, growth, or a balance between the two. Each has a performance record demonstrating the success of M&G's investment policy over many years. As an incentive we are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

An investor of £10,000 at the Fund's launch in May 1964 has seen his income after basic-rate tax grow from £396 in the first full year to £2,018 in 1984.

By contrast, a building society investor's annual income has fluctuated, rising from £536 in 1965 to £1,200 in 1980 and then falling back to £853 by 1984. So anyone who depended on a building society for income has suffered a cut-back over the past four years, whilst Dividend Fund investors continued to enjoy a steadily increasing income.

In addition, the Dividend Fund investor's £10,000 had grown to £54,300 by the end of December 1984 compared with £27,271 from a similar notional investment in the F.T. Industrial Ordinary Index and £10,000 in a building society deposit which, of course, remained unchanged.

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment, because we will continue to make income growth the prime objective. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and the aim is to provide a high and growing return with a yield about 50% higher than that of the F.T. Actuaries All Share Index.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64			£10,000	£10,000
1965	£396	£536	10,200	10,000
1970	423	850	10,760	10,000
1975	468	871	16,300	10,000
1980	1,660	1,200	24,280	10,000
1984	2,018	853	54,300	10,000

On 23 January 1985 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
Dividend Fund	302.2p	839.5p	5.35%
Recovery Fund	241.9p	802.0p	3.78%
SECOND General	8.7p	97.4p	3.76%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each Fund's value - currently 0.5% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income (currently 0.5% for Dividend and 0.25% for Recovery and SECOND). Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic-rate tax on the following dates:

	Dividend	Recovery	SECOND
Distributions	15 Jan	15 Feb	15 Feb
	15 July	20 Aug	15 Aug

Next distribution for new investors: 1985 15 July 1985 20 Aug 1985 15 Aug 1985

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Penetration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The Trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider-range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-626 4988. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

M&G
SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
UNIT TRUST
GROUP OF THE YEAR

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched. The table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth over the long term. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69				
1970	11,780	8,570	11,020	11,058
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	16,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1984	214,720	39,977	82,405	36,769

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for growth of both capital and income and has a 28-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies, which are kept under constant review.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56				
1960	19,534	20,080	11,293	12,483
1965	31,947	26,230	13,492	16,093
1970	47,537	30,540	17,143	21,636
1975	81,843	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	200,813	61,600	62,494	49,931
1984	463,879	142,410	81,519	71,938

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. All applications received by 5th April, 1985, will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (where applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued at the price ruling on receipt of the application.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

	DIVIDEND (MIN. £1,000)	RECOVERY (MIN. £1,000)	SECOND (MIN. £1,000)
£	00	00	00

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Responsible in England No. 90776 Reg. Office as above. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Rosemary Burr examines the accounts that deal with bunching bills

Banking on a budget bargain

HOW CAN you avoid paying for cheques, direct debits and cash dispenser withdrawals when you are overdrawn? This is not a trick question, needing specialist knowledge. The answer is a budget account.

The name budget account does not sound very exciting but hidden under this label are some very shrewd banking bargains. Each bank tends to offer a rather different package of facilities and not all of them are equally attractive.

Budget or revolving credit accounts are designed on the simple principle that most people will be in credit some of the time and overdrawn at others. In addition, bills may bunch together making it difficult to make ends meet at certain times of the year. The solution is an account which rewards regular savers with a guaranteed loan at preferential rates. In this context "preferential" means cheaper than a personal loan but usually marginally more expensive than an overdraft. Most, but not all, banks pay a reasonable rate of interest while you are in credit.

The table shows the latest interest rate structure of budget accounts offered by Britain's eleven banks. The Yorkshire withdrew its version as it proved unpopular with customers. As you can see costs vary quite widely and three banks, the Co-op, National Girobank and Royal Bank of Scotland do not pay any interest when you are in

SAVE AND BORROW ACCOUNTS			
Bank	Account	Credit % gross	Debit % APR
Bank of Scotland	Scotplan	7.5	23.1
Barclays	Cashplan	10	20.25
Clydesdale	Personal Credit Plan	6	16.8
Co-op	Budget	NH	26.8
Lloyds	Cashflow	9.5	21.5
Midland	Save and Borrow	8.5	22.7
National Girobank	Flexiplan	NH	19.5
NatWest	Budget	Fixed charges: £35 for first £500, then £7 each additional £50	
Royal Bank of Scotland	Budget**	NH	18.1
TSB	Moneyplan	5	16.51

*Credit rate as at February 12, 1985. Debit rate as at February 18, 1985.

**Flat rate as interest is charged in same manner as an overdraft.

Plus 1 per cent management fee up to £7.50 per quarter.

credit. Watch out also for Royal Bank of Scotland's additional charge based on the amount you expect to borrow. This is a flat 1 per cent although the maximum charge per quarter is £7.50.

NatWest stands out with a different charging structure assessed as a flat fee depending on how much you anticipate borrowing. There is no interest charge as such, so this compares very favourably with the other budget accounts, especially when rates are at their present levels. Under the NatWest system, you work out your annual bills and divide by 12 (or 13 for weekly standing orders if you wish).

You then agree to transfer a fixed amount each month equal to one twelfth (or one thirteenth) and the bank agrees to meet all the bills as they fall due. The charge is

simply £25 for the first £500 worth of loans plus £1 for each subsequent £50. So if you expected to have bills totalling £1,000 in a year you would pay £45. The bonus with this account is that if you are clever you can use it to avoid going into the red on your current account and therefore cut down bank charges.

The other account which can save you bank charges is Clydesdale's Personal Credit Plan which works in tandem with a current account. Again you do your annual sums and work out how much you need to save each month. Then the bank will automatically top up your current account when necessary, based on 30 times your monthly payment. This will stop your current account going overdrawn and pushing you into charges for all your transactions.

Do watch out for bank charges over and above the interest on these accounts. The banks argue that customers cannot have their cake and eat it. The cost of earning interest while in credit is offset by charges, usually in excess of that on current accounts, for various transactions.

Charges: Bank of Scotland: 10 free cheques per quarter, then same as for current account. Barclays: 40p per debit. Clydesdale: none, linked to current account. Co-op: none.

Lloyds: cheques, standing orders 40p; direct debits 30p; cashpoint 30p per day.

Midland: standard current account charges.

National Girobank: none.

Royal Bank of Scotland: none, apart from 1 per cent management fee.

TSB: cheques 40p; standing orders, direct debit 40p; Speedbank 30p.

The banks which do not pay interest when you are in credit are those who do not charge every time you write a cheque. Remember you pay income tax on interest received but pay for charges out of taxed earnings.

So the best account will depend on your banking habits and how often you will need to use the loan facility. The Clydesdale borrowing rate has been consistently cheap and compares favourably with current overdraft rates which vary between 14 per cent and 17 per cent at present.

YOUR MONEY LETTERS

answered by
Margaret Dibben

Progress so far

I TOOK out a policy when my son was born a year ago to provide school fees in ten years' time and some life insurance. I preferred the Crown Life policy to others because of the clear way it was set out, and the salesman. But I never seem to see Crown Life among the top performing trusts. What do you think of their performance?
G. W., Taunton.

THE league tables you are perhaps concerned about may be those of straight unit trusts - the best performers usually being high risk investments starting from a depressed level over a given period.

Crown Life is a well-managed company whose managed fund in which your contributions are invested, has a good track record over eight years with like other investments of this type, a few hiccups in between. It is in the top quartile of performance. Whether, in the period of your particular investment, it does better or worse than comparable funds, only time will tell.

THE reply last week to G.F., the teacher from Wendover, could have added that, if G.F. was paying additional contributions to the Teachers' Super-annuation Scheme, a worthwhile thing to do, whilst 374 Per "Purchase of Post Added Years" from DES, D Mowden Hall, Darlington DL3 8BG, gives the details.

M. W. Godalming.

THE address given last week for Woodhead-Faulkner, publishers of The Stock Market, was unfortunately an old one. They are now at Fitzwilliam House, 32 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1QY.

NEW from Nationwide FleetBond

A UNIQUE SAVINGS PLAN WITH IMMEDIATE LIFE COVER

The new FleetBond from Nationwide is a 10 year savings plan with special tax advantages. Produced in conjunction with Fleet Friendly Society and Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers Limited, the special tax advantages and immediate life cover of the FleetBond make it a most attractive investment.

How FleetBond Works

The Nationwide FleetBond is a unique savings plan. Half your savings go into a special Nationwide account and the balance is used to buy units in Midland Bank's Income Unit Trust. The Friendly Society link means that 50% of the tax normally paid on building society and unit trust interest is reclaimed, giving your savings a valuable boost. No other savings plan offers the same two-way investment as the FleetBond.

Life Insurance Cover

FleetBond automatically provides life insurance cover up to a total sum of £1500 for those aged 56 or under. There is a small reduction in death benefit for older ages. No medical examination is required.

The Likely Return

If FleetBonds had been available since:

1974 then they would have produced a return of over 15% per annum.

How Much

The FleetBond is a ten year investment in which you save £200 per year. FleetBond gives you the choice of saving annually or from a lump sum of £2000 into a Nationwide account which, in turn, is used to make the yearly FleetBond contributions.

The Next Step

You can obtain full details of FleetBond by completing the coupon or alternatively by telephoning 01-834 9090 any day, any time and we will send you a brochure.

Please note, anyone can open a FleetBond provided they are between the ages of 18 and 68, but you may not hold a FleetBond if you already have a similar policy issued by a Friendly Society.

To: Nationwide Building Society, Prepost, London WC1A 0AA. Please send me details of the Nationwide FleetBond.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

In conjunction with Midland Bank Unit Trusts

FLEET FRIENDLY SOCIETY

PG 281

NEW HIGHER RATES FROM 1st FEBRUARY!

9.45% NET

AND ONLY 7 DAYS NOTICE

INVEST MORE	EARN MORE
9.45%	9.20%
9.20%	8.95%

The Triple Bonus Account provides top rewards for investors. No other major building society offers such an ideal combination of really high interest and easy access. The more you invest, the better your deal becomes.

With £1,000 to £4,999 you get a generous 8.95% p.a. (12.79% gross). £5,000 to £19,999 returns an even better 9.20% p.a. (13.14% gross).

And £20,000 or more earns 9.45% p.a. (13.50% gross). Beat that if you can!

Your money is available with no interest loss at only seven days' notice. Or you can withdraw

instantly if you leave £10,000 or more invested.

If you'd like a monthly income at the same high rate, ask about the Triple Bonus Income Account. With 160 branches around the country, there's a Bristol & West branch near you with all the details. Or write (no stamp required) to:

Bristol & West Building Society, (Dept TB) FREEPOST, PO Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol BS99 7BR.

BRISTOL TRIPLE BONUS ACCOUNT

BRISTOL & WEST BUILDING SOCIETY

Authorised for investment by Trustees. Assets exceed £1,900 million. Member of the Building Societies Association. Net interest is paid annually and is tax paid at the basic rate. Gross rates are equivalent for basic rate taxpayers. Interest rates and terms may vary.

Head Office: Broad Quay, Bristol BS99 7AX. Telephone: (0272) 294271.

OVER 160 BRANCHES FROM PENZANCE TO ABERDEEN

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st January 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,196. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £15,320, an extra £8,124.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the long term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st JANUARY, 1985

	5 YEARS (Jan 1980 to Jan 1985)	10 YEARS (Jan 1975 to Jan 1985)	15 YEARS (Jan 1970 to Jan 1985)
Amount paid in	1,200	2,400	3,600
M&G Dividend	2,289	7,513	16,708
M&G Recovery	1,913	8,446	22,734
M&G SECOND	2,039	7,262	15,320
F.T. Industrial Ordinary Index	2,160	6,143	11,259
Building Society Savings Account	1,499	3,840	7,196

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are "bid" prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 0.5%) for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty. The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the "offer" price and sell at the "bid" price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

IF NO FUND IS CIRCLED YOUR PLAN WILL BE LINKED TO M&G SECOND

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ (min £20) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £.

(you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

AMERICAN & GEN. INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALASIAN JAPAN & GEN. COMPOUND GROWTH MIDLAND DIVIDEND RECOVERY GENERAL SECOND GOLD SMALLER COS.

The units will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the rules of the plan.

If the Savings Plan account is being opened for the benefit of a child, please fill in here the full name of the child.

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (minimum £20) and that I can realise my holding on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Regd in England No. 90776 Reg. Office as above. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

PLEASE PAY TO NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC, 191 Moulton Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LN, Account No. 95733770 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (Savings Plan Account) quoting Account No. LEAVE BLANK the sum of £.00 on the day of 19, and continue to pay that amount on the day of each month/quarter until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments.

FROM: NAME: _____ INITIALS: _____ ADDRESS: _____

POST: _____

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLMENT FORM

THE M&G GROUP

THE GUARDIAN Saturday January 26 1985 **23**

RUARY!

Leave £10,000 or more in your savings account and receive a monthly income at a rate, ask about the Income Account. With money around the country, call or write to the branch of & West branch at the details. Or write (if required) to:

**Building Society,
EPOST, PO Box 27,
Bristol BS99 7BR.**

**STOL
IPLE
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OUNT**

**I & West
SOCIETY**

with Frasers Assets Group
Investment Services Division
100, The Quadrant, London W1

Tim Roberts looks at how redundant industrial buildings from windmills to bottle factories are making a profitable comeback as residential premises.

A change for the better

WHILE the decline of our industrial birthright may be a source of despair for some, in the property trade it is an ill wind that blows no estate agent's good. The property world is fast discovering a new lease of life for redundant industrial premises in the form of refurbished and often up-market residential accommodation.

Two properties which are either on the market or about to be released exemplify some of the problems and attractions of this new form of refurbishment. A bottle factory in Islington, London, and a redundant pumping station on the banks of the Thames in Richmond do not on paper appear to be the most attractive propositions for would-be home owners. And yet, any such property which manifests character the least bit out of the ordinary is being avidly snapped up by buyers anxious to avoid the uniformity and overall lack of imagination which typifies the majority of modern volume building.

The attractions are fairly obvious of a development like the Bottle Factory in the heart of De Beauvoir town in Islington. Built in the 1850s, the factory was used for the manufacture of bottles until about 20 years ago since when it has mainly been used as a distribution warehouse, albeit for the drinks industry. The site had been derelict for a number of years when architect James Gorst took an interest in it. "As an industrial building it presented more of a challenge architecturally speaking than the average house conversion," he says.

The building is at present undergoing a complete refurbishment and conversion into four self-contained maisonettes, with a main workspace-cum living-room downstairs and two or three-bedroom accommodation.



Sales rather than suits

plus craftsman fitted kitchen and bathroom upstairs.

The shape of the accommodation was very much at the discretion of architect Gorst, the building itself being of a straightforward design and offering a wide range of possible internal conversions.

However, the final design was influenced by the reluctance of Islington council to sanction a full change of use for the building from light industrial to outright residential.

"Although they were sympathetic," says James Gorst,

"they didn't want to see it go completely residential (whose gardens back directly on to the factory) did not want to see it retain its light industrial use."

The result was a compromise with the main living space being designated for Class 4 non-industrial use; that is, a studio type workspace for a graphic designer, photographer, or architect, involved in a "non-pollutant" business, says Mr Gorst.

The conversion presented few difficulties because of the

flexible nature of the industrial workspace, although laying new foundations presented some problems as the old ones were crushed glass bottles.

London agents Holden Matthews will soon be offering the apartments at prices "in the region of £100,000." Buying a slice of industrial heritage doesn't come cheap. Meanwhile down by the riverside at Water Lane, Richmond, Surrey, agents Mann and Co. are offering eight apartments in a converted pumping station, a Grade 2 listed building once the property of the Thames Water Authority and situated only 25 feet from the river Thames.

Planning authorities took a lenient line with the redevelopment proposals and sanctioned the change of use from a 19th-century industrial building to 20th-century residential accommodation. The building has eight apartments with prices from £80,000. It retains some of its former job-making capacity in the form of a wine bar and bistro on the ground floor.

Some other developments coming on the market, or which have attracted attention recently, include a refurbished electricity substation, a lighthouse ripe for revamping, a windmill, and a clutch of de-consecrated churches and chapels.

The message from the property industry is clear. Change of use, especially to residential accommodation, is becoming increasingly acceptable to local planning authorities.

Perhaps the pressure on land for new developments and the restricting influence of green belt policy has led to a more imaginative attitude on the part of planners, architects and developers.

Using the use of redundant buildings which currently litter the town and the countryside.

The money you will need to be a homeowner in the next century

THREE quarters of us will own our own homes by the end of the century, says the Building Societies Association in a new paper which attempts to analyse the future demand for owner occupied housing, how it will be met and who will provide the mortgage finance.

According to the report, Housing Finance into the 1990s, more young people wish to be owner-occupiers, "and moreover expect to be," while nearly half of council tenants regard owner-occupation as their ideal tenure in ten years' time.

The estimated number of first-time buyers is expected to decline from 640,000 a year in the mid-1980s to 500,000 a year by the end of the century, says the BSA.

The demand for new houses is expected to be met by sales of council housing and other private sector rented housing and new housebuilding which will be needed to pay for the increase in home ownership. By the year 2000, it will be more than £100,000 million a year just to fund house purchases.

The report concludes that societies will have no difficulty in satisfying mortgage

demand "provided they are prepared to pay competitive rates of interest."

THE HOUSING market in the last quarter of 1984 was "brisker than expected," says the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in its latest survey of the housing market, and that in spite of the high interest rates, unemployment and the miners' strike.

Prices remained stable says the report with most movement at the top and bottom ends of the market - large country houses and terraced housing in need of renovation.

CANBOROUGH N1
New Georgian town house. Hall, cloakroom, w.c., dining room, sitting room, designer fitted kitchen with pine work, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
£170,000
Tel. 01-226 4505

KITSON and KING
BARNES
Very pretty mid-Victorian cottage in conservation area. 2 bed, bath, 2 recep., kitchen, shower room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
£170,000
Tel. 01-875 4942

ian james
Crouch End, N.4. A most desirable house in this favourable local. 2 beds, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bath, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
£170,000
Tel. 01-875 4942

ONLY 4 HOUSES REMAINING
2xTWO BED. SHOWHOUSES
AT £63,995 INCLUSIVE
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HOUSES AT £72,995

ORCHARD NEWS
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TOOTING BEDFORDSHIRE
Choice of 2 and 3 bed houses (2 years old) comprising lounge, fitted kitchen, coloured bath, central heating, garden, garage in block.
CLOSE TRIST COMMON, S.W.17
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Most spacious terraced family property well maintained, offering gas central heating, carpets, bath, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, shower room, 2 bedrooms, garden and parking space.
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£125,000
Superbly maintained Victorian property close to Tube Station featuring gas central heating, carpets, 27 lounge, 21 kitchen, 3 double bedrooms, bathroom, garden.
OPEN ALL DAY SATURDAY
01-872 4244

Bainstow Eves
TUNNELL PARK, N7. Delightful garden flat, 2 beds, 17 reception, fit. kitchen, C.H., 24' double lounge, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
TUNNELL PARK, N7. Purpose built second floor flat, 2 beds, en-suite, C.H., fit. kitchen, 24' double lounge, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
HORNSEA, N15. Lux 2 bed first floor flat in 19th lounge, dining room, fit. kitchen, en-suite, C.H., 24' double lounge, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
TUNNELL PARK, N7. Duplex apartment, ground and lower ground floors, 2 beds, lounge, dining room, fit. kitchen, en-suite, C.H., 24' double lounge, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
TEL: 01-485 5707

WARMAN'S
Woolwich
FOR SALE BY ORDER OF TRUSTEES
A 4 story plus attic Regency house located in Clarendon Square N1, offered for sale with vacant possession upon a lifehold basis having approx. 30 years unexpired lease. The house is a fine example of a Regency house, with 4 principal rooms, 2 w.c.s and is in need of extensive renovation and improvement. Suitable for family occupation or conversion into flats. Subject to contract. 92 years unexpired.
A 3 bed lower maisonette situated in a corner Regency house in Clarendon Square, N1, having been recently modernised to include rewiring, dip coating, new kitchen, fitted carpets and new garden. 1/10th 25.000 subject to contract. 92 years unexpired.

BATTY STEVENS GOOD
Crouch End, N.4. Refurbished three bedroom house with two bathrooms, central heating, gas C.H., 24' double lounge, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
Highgate, N.5. Semi-det. Edw. house in quiet position. Many original features. 3 beds, 2 baths, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
Crouch End, N.4. Unique flat 1st and 2nd floor units in quiet setting close to amenities. 2 bed, bath, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
01-340 3424
01-883 2361

NORTH-EAST ENGLAND
DETACHED neo-Georgian house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, central heating, gas C.H., 24' double lounge, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE. Detached house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, central heating, gas C.H., 24' double lounge, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
KINGSLY, WEST YORKSHIRE. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, central heating, gas C.H., 24' double lounge, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.
MILTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, central heating, gas C.H., 24' double lounge, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room with w.c., fully tiled bathroom with w.c. and shower, gas C.H., small, well kept garden with terrace, garage.

PROPERTY OVERSEAS
THE LARGEST OVERSEAS PROPERTY EXHIBITION IN THE U.K.
Over 60 stands offering holiday and residential properties for sale in Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, etc.
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FASHION

PREGNANT?

Free maternity catalogues

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Wet weather gear

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LENWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

HOLIDAY VILLAGE

... (text continues) ...

THE CREAM OF COTTAGES

By Post

... (text continues) ...

CORNISH CRAFTSMEN'S COTTAGES

... (text continues) ...

GREEN LANES OF ENGLAND

HOLIDAYS FOR WALKERS AND STROLLERS

... (text continues) ...

ENGLAND

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MARGED SHOES

A women's co-op making shoes & boots for women

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Schnocks

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WALES

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THE LAKES - The Dales

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LAKE DISTRICT

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SCOTTISH COLLEGE OF TEXTILES

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ADVERTISING IN GUARDIAN PERSONAL

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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FOR YOUR VALENTINE

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THE PATCHWORK SWEATER

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THE DEWANIAM OF FOREST HILL

Invites you to a whole new concept in Indian cooking

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Saturday January 28

**On Your Farm.
In Perspective.
Down to Earth. Garden jobs**

0 News; Today's Papers
 1 Sport on 4
 2 Yesterday in Parliament
 3 Breakaway. Holiday advice
 4 Newsstand. Weekdays reviewed
 5 The Week in Westminster
 6 Pick of the Week
 7 From our own Correspondent
 8 News on the Box. Financial tips
 9 News Quiz. Panel game for
 10 journalists
 11 News: Any Questions? from Wel-
 12 lington House
 13 News: Howard de Cunn, Derek
 14 Jameson, Doreen Miller
 15 News: Afternoon Play: An Occa-
 16 sional Day by Peter Tinswood
 17 Teachers, married but separated,
 18 marry on a day off
 19 News: Lexicon of Laughter: com-
 20 edy with a C
 21 Maharaj, Princely living in India
 22 Enemies of the Crown
 23 A German prisoner of
 24 war and an English factory girl
 25 A Sideswaps Look at...
 26 Wildlife
 27 Week Ending. Satirical review
 28 News
 29 Desert Island Discs: Indian cul-
 30 ture expert, Madhub Jaffrey
 31 Shop the Week
 32 Baker's Dozen
 33 Saturday-Night Theatre: Cere-
 34 monies of War by Philip Purvis
 35 Boy becomes man—1942-43
 36 News
 37 Evening Service
 38 Soundings. Moral issues
 39 Science Now
 40 The Wow Show presents 'Gona-
 41 lamo.' Alternatives' humour
 42 News; weather; shipping fore-

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**News; Morning Has Broken
News, Sunday Papers; 7 15**

7 Hi Gar! Samajhiye for Asians; 7
 45 Bellis; 7 50 Turning Over
 New Leaves
 10 Sunday Papers.
 15 Sunday.
 50 Week's Good Cause: Britain-
 Nepal Medical Trust.
 5 News; Sunday Papers.
 15 Letter from America by Allistair
 Cooke.
 30 Morning Service.
 35 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
 15 Weekend. Future of public ser-
 vice.
 30 Smash of the Day: Educating
 Archie.
 35 The Food Programme.
 40 The World This Weekend: News
 45 News; Gardeners' Question Time
 from Bodel.
 50 The Afternoon Play: The Green
 Drum. Irish political drama by
 Allan Berrie.
 5 News; Talking about Antiques.
 30 The Life of David. Signs of life
 under the snow.
 40 News; Down Your Way in
 Reading.
 45 News.
 15 Underground Britain: Devilry in
 the depths.
 30 Bookshelf.
 40 Father Brown Stories by G. K.
 Chesterton. 7: The Sins of Princes
 and Princes.
 50 The Divine Sun. Portrait of
 Impressionist painter Pierre-
 Auguste Renoir.
 5 The Black Cockatoo. Ulster emig-
 ration in Australia at the turn of
 the century.
 30 Mad Dogs and Englishmen.
 Unusual sports.
 40 News; Masters' India. Book Four:
 Snowman Junction (5).
 45 News.
 15 God, Buddha and the Survival
 Machine. Differing views of the
 place of man in the world.
 40 The World That Kills: Divorce
 and its aftermath.
 15 Inside Parliament.
 5 News; weather; shipping forecast.
 After (346m): 6 30 Am As Radio 2, 8 0 As
 8 30 As, 9 30 As, 10 30 As, 11 30 As, 12 30 As
 America, 9 5 All Things Considered,
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World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave stations 12.5 and 12.8 Mc. News, 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Newsweek, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The British Broadcasting Corporation, 12.5 Mc. Letter from London, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. News, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. News in Spanish, 11 a.m. to 12 noon. News in Hindi, 12 noon to 1 p.m. News in Malay, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. News in Dutch, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. News in French, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. News in German, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. News in Italian, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. News in Japanese, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. News in Korean, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. News in Portuguese, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. News in Russian, 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. News in Spanish, 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. News in Swedish, 11 p.m. to 12 noon. 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1968. 5-42 Recordings of the Week.

Manual workers may join teachers in industrial action

Councils face twin campaign for more pay

By John Ardill,
Labour Correspondent

The threat of joint industrial action by council manual workers and teachers was raised last night as manual workers broke off pay talks on a 4.75 per cent offer worth £3.70 a week.

The teaching unions, which are already taking unofficial industrial action in their campaign, start negotiations on Monday.

The breakdown has also raised the prospect of local government unions taking on the Government simultaneously over pay, rate-capping, the abolition of metropolitan authorities, and privatisation.

The manual workers' chief negotiator Mr John Edmonds, said the employers "seem to be driving local government

unions into an alliance." The employers' refusal yesterday to give the manual workers a new settlement date away from the start of the negotiating round was seen by the unions as the direct work of the Government which, they say, fears having to start the round in April with its own civil servants and the NHS ancillary and white-collar staff.

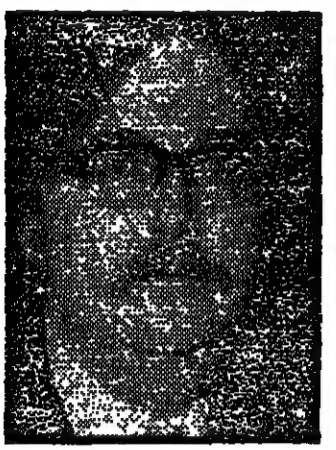
A new date was the unions' main priority and yesterday's cash offer was not seen as sufficient to buy out the claim. Mr Edmonds said members would be "aggravated and disgruntled" by an offer well below the 5.5 per cent awarded this week by arbitrators to the lowest-paid council clerical staff—worth at least 25 a week—and the 6.2 per cent over 15 months offered to council building workers.

The manual unions were promised special pay treatment last year but ended up with the lowest local government settlement.

The employers said yesterday that money being sought by the unions would lead to the destruction of large parts of the service and large-scale redundancies.

The unions will report the breakdown of talks to their executives, who are likely to consult the 900,000 members involved.

An alliance between teaching and manual unions might be difficult — they have clashed at national level over pay policy — but significantly, a large proportion of the manual workers are dinner ladies, school cleaners, and caretakers.



Mr John Edmonds — 'political interference'

Anger at siege coverage

Police negotiations with a south London siege gunman were almost wrecked yesterday by a TV news bulletin. Senior officers were understood to be angry about a Thames news report that police were prepared to storm the flat in Glenelg Road, Streatham, where the man is holed up.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said the man, who police want to question over an armed robbery in which a police dog was killed, had watched the report

A social services spokesman said that about 30 people unable to return to their homes because of the siege would be put up in local hotels. "It's a fairly grim situation and they are having to make do the best they can."

A Thames TV spokesman said: "Our lunchtime news report did not say, nor did it infer, that the police were about to storm the besieged man. If the besieged man, or the police, misunderstood, then that is unfortunate."

Labour leaders put the blame on Thatcher

By James Naughtie
Political Correspondent

Labour Party leaders yesterday turned on the Prime Minister with strong accusations that she was personally blocking a settlement of the miners' strike.

After Mrs Thatcher's refusal to contemplate what she called "a fudge" to end the dispute, Mr Neil Kinnock accused her of vindictiveness in trying to defeat the miners, and Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow home secretary, accused her of engaging in a spiteful campaign.

They argued that the NUM and the coal board both wanted negotiations, and it was only Mrs Thatcher, when she visited the coalfield in a television interview on Thursday night, which was souring the atmosphere for negotiations. Mr Kinnock said that she was now isolated in her desire to inflict a dreadful humiliation on the miners.

Sensing a political opportunity such as has been rarely offered him in the last few weeks of the strike, the opposition leader said: "I think it would be very foolish if the Conservative Cabinet and the Conservative Party allowed her to get away with that because it would be an act of self-destruction, like Samson pulling in the pillars of the temple."

Speaking in Gloucester, he said the country was now aware of Mrs Thatcher's role in blocking a possible settlement. Mr Kaufman, speaking in his Manchester constituency, said that the nation was angered by the spite and vindictiveness coming from Downing Street.

The government stance, however, remained firm throughout the day. Mrs Thatcher's comments on Thursday, when she insisted that an agreement to some pit closures on economic grounds had to be accepted by the NUM before negotiations, effectively left ministers and government spokesmen with nothing else to say.

It is clear that ministers will watch any offer by the coal board very carefully, and there seems no doubt that Mrs Thatcher is in no mood to allow a deal to go through which would contravene the principles she had laid out so publicly.

Mr Kinnock said he believed that without her intervention negotiations could proceed to end the strike, which was in "its final stages". Mr Kaufman said: "Mrs Thatcher's dictatorial approach is damaging the prospects of a settlement."

Labour fury over Mrs Thatcher's remarks has largely obscured the divisions in the party about tactics on the strike, which were so evident only a few days ago. Last night Mr Eric Heffer, who has been a prominent critic of Mr Kinnock's strategy, said in a statement which took up the same theme as his leader.

"The entire Labour Party, through its national executive committee meeting on Wednesday, has shown that it is united in its support for the miners and in support of their call that negotiations should resume immediately. I trust the Prime Minister will show the compassion she referred to when she quoted the prayer of peace of St Francis of Assisi," he said.

Sale threatens cheap coaches

By Geoff Andrews,
Transport Correspondent

The days of cheap express motorway coaches could be over within the next year if the Government goes ahead with plans to sell National Express, which has dominated the market in recent years and led the field in cut-price competition.

With about 65 per cent of the motorway coach business, National Express has led the rapid growth of services in the past three years, dictating prices that most private operators have been unable to match, and still make a profit.

Because it uses the network of routes owned by its parent company, National Bus, as a result, although

National Express made a £3.7 million operating profit in the last financial year it lost £301,000 when full costs were allocated.

A strong hint that the Government intends to sell the express coach services in the near future was given in a press notice issued by the Department of Transport to accompany the public expenditure white paper published earlier this week.

Detailing the external planning limits of the nationalised industries, the notice explains that the NBC limit for this year would be cut from the present £84.5 million to £83 million in the 1985-8 financial year. This, the notice adds, "reflects the potential for

some parts of NBC to be sold before the main programme of privatisation."

NBC had anticipated a cut of about £3 million in the limit to account for the planned reductions in support for public transport. The cut made up from the sale of some of its parts, can only mean that something as substantial as the express services, and perhaps National Holidays, its four marketing arms, will be put on the market sooner than anticipated.

An alternative method of raising such a large sum by selling large amounts of NBC property seems unlikely because of the depressing effect that this would have on the

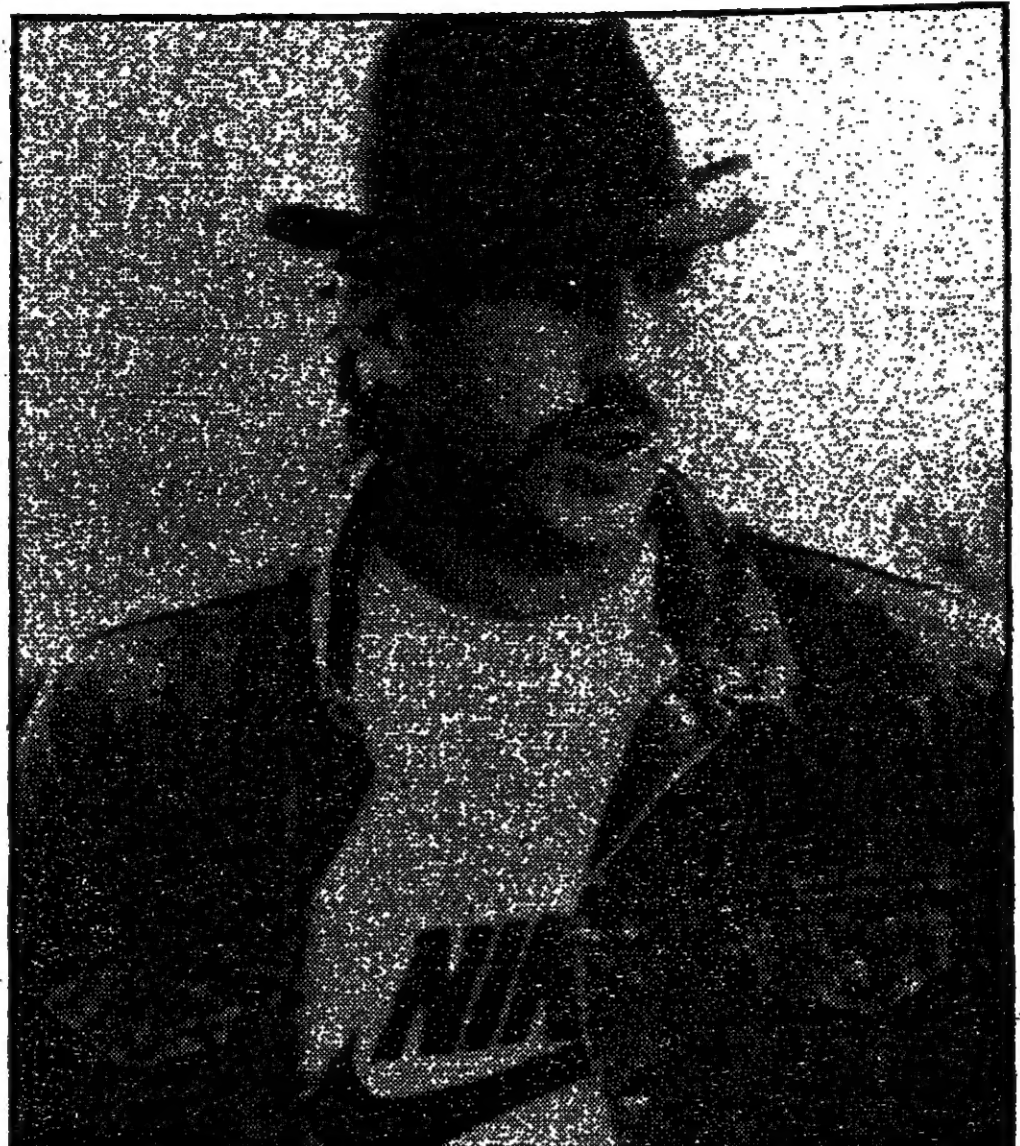
attractiveness of the 50 component companies of NBC, running local services, which will be put up for sale after deregulation of the industry, scheduled for 1988.

In December, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, announced in a written Commons answer that he was delaying the sale of the component parts of National Bus until the deregulation of local services had been given a chance to settle down. But this need not apply to coach services, which have been delayed since 1981, the more which stimulated the rapid growth of NBC's motorway coach services.

An additional element in favour of an early disposal of

NBC's coaching operation is the effect that the inevitable rise in prices would have on British Rail, where InterCity has been given a target of 5 per cent profitability by 1988. This task is proving almost impossible when coaches can offer a faster service at a fraction of the cost.

Return fares on all the main coach routes throughout Britain are often little more than half the price of the cheapest "saver" fares on the railways. To travel from London to Aberdeen by coach costs £26 compared with £47 by train. Manchester costs £10 (£13) Chester £8.50 (£18) Blythburgh £8.50 (£18); and Plymouth £12 (£24).



Ian Botham, the England and Somerset cricket all-rounder, arriving at Scunthorpe's soccer ground yesterday. He has said he will plead guilty in a magistrate's court to possessing cannabis.

Sinclair holds back on C5 expansion

By Maggie Brown

Sinclair has deferred a decision on whether to invest up to £2 million in a second production line for his £399 electric three-wheeler, the C5.

The decision inevitably raises doubts about whether the Sinclair vehicle is attracting buyers. But Sinclair Vehicles, the offshoot company making the C5, blames an overtime ban by the 1,700 workers at Hoo, where the Mersey Tyrol washing machines works, where the vehicles are assembled on a special line.

A one-day strike called for next Tuesday has led to the cancellation of a visit by Prince Andrew to Wales to the plant.

Sinclair refused yesterday to release any information on

orders received since the three-wheeler was launched. A spokesman said: "Sales are going extremely well, and are more than on target." The company was said to have received orders for more than 1,000 vehicles during the launch week.

Sinclair plans to produce some 100,000 C5 vehicles at Merthyr this year, building up from the first production line, employing 100 people, which can make about 1,000 a week.

The AUEW works convenor at the plant, Mr William Bish, said that the deferred investment in special machine tools was unlikely to have any immediate effect, as problems with the first production line were still being solved.

The Hoover workers have been offered a 4 per cent pay rise, but want 7 per cent.

How men fall for the Iron Lady

Continued from page one

wine, will lunge passionately at the Prime Minister and that she can handle them as easily as if they were mere members of her Cabinet.

Mr Fairbairn, whose public life has been colourful and varied and whose ministerial career ended when he resigned as Solicitor-General for Scotland in 1982, has done it once more, ensuring that the Prime Minister will never seem quite the same again. Nor, of course, will the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

There really was no consolation in the Chequers bunker last night in Channel 4's profile, Mr Livingstone was asked for his impressions. He described Mrs Thatcher as a worthy opponent, capable of changing hearts and minds, and shifting political opinion. "I think I admire the determination," he said. The imposition of her personality on events? "That I find very admirable." It must have seemed like the final insult.

Blacks are promised more say

Continued from page one

In policy, with the Government finally admitting in public that at least some blacks belong to South Africa itself and not in the homelands.

Mr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, leader of the liberal opposition Progressive Federal Party, said it could be the start of a meaningful debate between whites and blacks.

But the Nobel peace prize winner, Bishop Desmond Tutu, told reporters in the Hague: "We will not be satisfied with the crumbs of concessions the white man throws at us. The country is ours."

He said that the forum would be "nonsense, a totally toothless dog meant only to serve within the structure of apartheid."

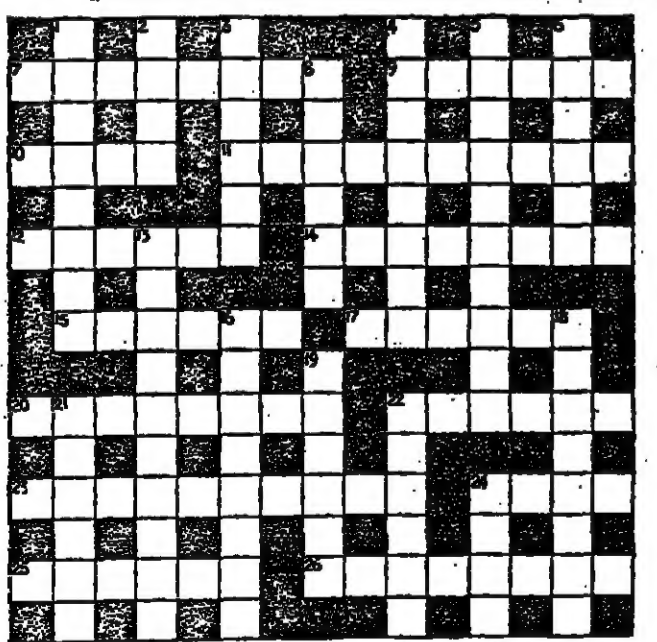
The United Democratic Front, the main multi-racial opposition alliance, insisted that Mr Botha was still trying to perpetuate white domination by continuing the homeland system. "This solution is completely unacceptable, its publicity secretary, Mosiuo Lekota, said.

THE GUARDIAN PRIZE PUZZLE 17,144

CUSTOS

A £20 cash prize will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution opened, and three book tokens, each of £10, for the next three. Send your entry to Guardian Crossword No. 17,144, The Guardian, 164 Deansgate, Manchester M60 2RR, to arrive not later than first post on Thursday next week. Solution and winners' names in The Guardian on Monday, February 4.

Name _____
Address _____



- ACROSS**
- Card-game gets embarrassed PC in hole (8).
 - Embedded in lake, needing help (6).
 - Related to king, showing mental twist (4).
 - Pest exterminator, somewhat restricting cat getting about (3-7).
 - It's most congenial very near to where I live (4, 2, 2, 6).
 - English youngsters around the North are fast runners (6).
 - Drive home about fifty, a short distance (6).
 - Makes a profit, as many a red does (4, 2, 6).
 - Very large doctor, retired French one, crazy (10).
- DOWN**
- Derision and anger about post detectives tripping up (8).
 - Caught the man in a snare and accepted the blame (4, 3, 2).
 - Slalom is unusual in Cyprus (8).
 - Choose to have Reagan in charge, like a modern computer (10).
 - Undertaking to eschew tricks is essential in pool (6).
 - Ben worried about cat getting put down (6).
 - Given a new form, art must end improved (10).
 - Erased about a page, getting exhausted (8).
 - Country-dances old coppers have, with weeds all round (8).
 - Open up world organisation's summit (6).
 - Snare, the reason that fire-fighting's so 'ard' (6).
 - 24 Stretched, needing support, retreated (6, 4).

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,143

ACROSS
1. BRIGHT
2. SMALL
3. LITTLE
4. KING
5. PEST
6. MIND
7. DRIVE
8. PROFIT
9. DOCTOR
10. FRENCH
11. CRAZY
12. CAT
13. POST
14. TRIP
15. SNARE
16. BLAME
17. SLALOM
18. CYPRUS
19. REAGAN
20. COMPUTER
21. ESCHUE
22. POOL
23. BEN
24. CAT
25. FORM
26. ART
27. IMPROVED
28. ERASE
29. EXHAUSTED
30. COUNTRY
31. DANCES
32. OLD
33. COPPERS
34. WEEDS
35. ROUND
36. OPEN
37. WORLD
38. ORGANISATION
39. SUMMIT
40. SNARE
41. REASON
42. FIRE
43. FIGHTING
44. SO
45. ARD
46. 24
47. STRETCHED
48. NEEDING
49. SUPPORT
50. RETREATED
51. 6
52. 4

Lord Lane's radical plan Plan for £5m extra famine aid

Continued from page one

providing guidance to lower courts for future cases. Some officials yesterday suggested that the Lord Chief Justice was opposed to this because it was "too wishy-washy".

Judges appear to be opposed to giving the prosecution the right of appeal in any form. The Lord Chief Justice has publicly supported the idea of shorter sentences for offenders but he has made it clear that there should be no reduction in sentences for rape or drug convictions and has said that reckless driving charges should receive heavier sentences.

Stabbed PC on dialysis

Police Constable George Hammond, who was stabbed in the stomach by a youth in south London on Wednesday, remains in a stable but critical condition in King's College hospital, London, where surgeons have fought to save his life. He is now on dialysis because of kidney failure.

A hospital spokesman, Mr

in the Lords on Thursday all opposed the idea.

Australia and Canada both give the prosecution the right of appeal against sentence. One reason it is opposed in Britain is the fear that it will lead to heavier sentencing. British judges are already considerably more severe than those in most other states.

The Lord Chief Justice has publicly supported the idea of shorter sentences for offenders but he has made it clear that there should be no reduction in sentences for rape or drug convictions and has said that reckless driving charges should receive heavier sentences.

The one Law Lord, Lord Scarman, and three former judges, Lord Simon, Denning and Edmund-Davies, who spoke

By Alan Travis

A further £5 million of overseas aid for African famine victims and for refugees relief was announced by the Government yesterday in response to appeals from international relief agencies.

Mr Timothy Bason, the Minister for Overseas Development, said in a written Commons answer that the package included £2 million for the international committee of the Red Cross Africa appeal, which would be used in Ethiopia and the Sudan. A feeding centre at Mekele in Ethiopia is to be expanded and a new centre opened at Maichew.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is also to receive £2 million. The remaining £1 million is to be used by the League of Red Cross and Crescent Societies for its general African appeal covering 17 countries,

THE WEATHER

Sun and showers

A DEPRESSION over N France will move E and allow a ridge of high pressure to build over W districts.

Winds: SE, East E and E England, E winds, dry with some rain, but mainly dry with some rain. Sun in intervals. Max temp 1-30 (34-37).

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AROUND THE WORLD

Reports for the 24 hours ending 6 pm

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
Atlantic	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Indian	22-28	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Pacific	18-24	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Arctic	-10 to +10	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Antarctic	-20 to -30	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
North America	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
South America	15-20	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Europe	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Africa	15-20	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Asia	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Australia	15-20	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Oceania	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015

AROUND BRITAIN

Reports for the 24 hours ending 6 pm

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Manchester	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Birmingham	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Cardiff	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Edinburgh	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Belfast	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Sheffield	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Nottingham	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Leeds	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
York	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Lincoln	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Nottingham	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Leeds	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
York	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Lincoln	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015

SNOW REPORTS

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Manchester	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Birmingham	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
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Lincoln	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Nottingham	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Leeds	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
York	10-15	SE 10-15	1-3	1015
Lincoln	12-18	SE 10-15	1-3	1015

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